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INTERNATIONAL

Philippines

(Continued from Page 1)

of honour to our foreign creditors," said Rep Ramon Mitra, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

During the 55-minute speech, Aquino urged Congress to approve a 10 billion peso (\$500,000) emergency aid package to cope with effects of the July 16 quake, which hit Manila and surrounding Luzon island.

But she repeated her opposition to congressional calls for suspending payments on the country's \$3.6 billion foreign debt to free money for reconstruction.

"I am down-hearted because she is cold to our call for support on the suspension of debt servicing," said Sen Aquilino Pimentel, one of Aquino's campaign managers in the 1986 presidential election. "This could have been the best way for us to have sourced funds for reconstruction."

During the speech, Aquino praised the spirit of the Filipino people in coping with the quake's aftermath.

But she offered no tribute to those who died.

"Finally, I should like to thank all of our friends throughout the world — governments, institutions as well as individuals — for the humanitarian assistance given to our people and the victims of the earthquake," she said.

She also made no mention of an American pilot who lost his life on Friday when his US Marine OV-1 observation plane crashed while flying relief missions near Baguio, 130 miles (210 kilometres) north of Manila.

At the same time, Aquino called for national unity over the issue of whether to extend the lease on six American military bases in the country. The lease expires in September 1991, and talks resume next month on a new agreement.

"We must ensure that in mak-



Philippine President Corason Aquino delivers the state of the nation address on Monday before a joint gathering of 23 senators and 194 congressmen at the Parliament House in Manila. At the back is Ramon Mitra, the speaker of the House of Representatives. (Reuters wirephoto)

ing the decision as to whether the bases must go or stay, we must unite instead of divide," Aquino said. "Should we become a nation divided after this decision, then there will be no sovereignty to speak of."

Her past state of the nation addresses were interrupted by

frequent applause. Today, the audience gave perfunctory applause only at the beginning and end of the speech.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the Senate defence committee, said the speech showed that "she seems to be out of touch."

Oil

(Continued from Page 1)

to turn the August 1988 Gulf war ceasefire into a lasting peace.

"The resumption of war is not in Iraq's interest, and in its approach toward peace talks, that country has adopted a positive policy," he said. After recent face-to-face talks between the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers, Iraq said it was willing to co-operate with Iraq on oil policy in an effort to shore up petroleum prices.

Ameeri

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Rashid Salim Al Ameeri, said yesterday evening he hoped for an amiable Opec conference despite a war of words with Iraq on policy.

Ameeri was the first minister to arrive for the talks, which formally open on Thursday. In response to reporters' questions he said he anticipated shaking the hand of Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi.

"Definitely, Why not?" the Kuwaiti minister replied.

Analysts expect the meeting to be tense because of Iraqi stance. Nonetheless, asked if he expected an amiable conference, Ameeri said: "I hope so."

Iraq is seeking not only to return the price for Opec oil to the organisation's set target of \$18 barrel, but to boost it to \$25.

Output

Abu Dhabi has told producer firms to cut output by 400,000 barrels per day in August to meet a new quota allocation for the United Arab Emirates, the Middle East Economic Survey said.

The decision would lower Abu Dhabi's production to 1.15 million barrels per day (bpd) in August, the authoritative newsletter said.

With Dubai production running at 400,000 bpd, the total UAE output to just above a 1.5 million bpd ceiling agreed at a crisis meeting of Opec's five Gulf Arab producers in Jeddah two weeks ago.

MEEES said the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company had also told its mainly Japanese crude contract customers that August liftings would be cut by 30 per cent.

Chinese energy resources minister Huang has expressed his country's keenness to co-operate with the United Arab Emirates in the oil sector.

"We could send a mission to the UAE who in turn could send a delegation to Beijing to discuss oil co-operation," he said in a statement published at the weekend by the UAE petroleum and mineral resources ministry's magazine "Petroleum and Industry."

He pointed out that his government was backing Opec's policies, but was against a rapid increase in oil prices.

"We do not want prices to rise rapidly or decline rapidly as this will harm the world economy," the magazine quoted him as saying.

"The Chinese government hopes Opec will remain united to stabilise prices and increase them gradually every year," he affirmed.

The official said China had no formal relationship with Opec but had sent observers to the organisation's conferences.

"As far as Opec's production and pricing policy is concerned, we support this policy," Yicheng stressed. China produced about 2.7 million bpd of oil in 1989.

The minister pointed out that Kuwait had started investing in his country and he hoped the UAE would follow suit, adding that China had borrowed about \$40 billion from abroad and was planning to seek further financial help from foreign sources.

Qatar's Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani said on Monday he was optimistic about the outcome of Thursday's Opec meeting in Geneva.

The Qatar News Agency (QNA), received in Nicosia, said the minister was talking to reporters before leaving for Geneva at the head of his country's delegation to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) conference.

Sheikh Abdullah is acting for Finance and Petroleum Minister Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Bin Khalifa Al Thani and took his place at the Gulf Arab Opec members discussions on oil prices and quotas in Jeddah earlier this month when producers agreed to cut output.

The agreement by five key Opec Gulf oil producers in Jeddah this month will be the basis of a new output pact by the cartel, the official United Arab Emirates news agency WAM reported on Monday.

"The Jeddah agreement... will be the basis of an accord... by Opec on production and pricing," the agency quoted unidentified oil sources as saying.

Saudi Arabia said it was confident the Gulf accord it masterminded in Jeddah to cut Opec output was still firm.

Kill Stealth bomber: Aspin

Influential Democrat slams B-2

WASHINGTON, July 23, (UPI): House Armed Services Committee chairman Les Aspin today recommended that after a decade of development and controversy and expenses of nearly \$30 billion, the batwinged B-2 Stealth bomber be killed.

In remarks prepared for delivery to the House, the influential Wisconsin Democrat declared, "terminating the B-2 may be the first step in moving toward fiscal reality."

His action puts him at odds with both the administration and the Senate Armed

Services Committee, led by Sam Nunn, Democrat of Georgia, which has recommended that two of the planes be paid for in the fiscal 1991 budget. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney proposed two planes instead of the five initially requested earlier this year when Cheney revised a variety of aircraft programmes and cut the Northrop-built B-2 back from 132 planes to 75.

At the White House, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater, restated the adminis-

tration's support for the plane, saying, "we're for it. It's in our budget. We believe it's necessary."

The plane so far has consumed nearly \$30 billion, and 15 aircraft have been approved and are in various stages of production. The full buy of 75 planes is forecast to cost \$62.8 billion, a figure that will boost the per-plane cost, including the research expenses, from an initial level of \$530 million for a buy of 132 planes to \$840 million each.



Two British teenagers, charged with possessing more than 65 pounds (30.5 kg) of heroin, are in good spirits despite the risk of high penalties for drug trafficking, officials said in Bangkok on Monday.

The two suspects, identified as Patricia Ann Cahill, 17, and Karyn Joanne Smith, 19, of Birmingham, were arrested Wednesday night at Bangkok airport.

Police charged them with possessing more than 65 pounds (30.5 kg) of heroin hidden in their suitcases.

The two girls denied the charges, insisting that they were approached by a Chinese man who asked them to carry suitcases which allegedly had heroin hidden in containers of biscuits, tea and coffee.

"She (Cahill) is in a good temper. She can even speak some Thai such as 'Hello, fork and spoon,'" said an official at the Central Observation and Protection Centre for Juvenile Suspects, where Cahill has been detained since Friday.

"We have full facilities here but not freedom. This is a training school not a prison," said the official

who asked not to be identified. The official said the centre started questioning Cahill to find the reasons for allegedly committing a crime.

We will question her parents tomorrow (Tuesday) because they are so tired today," she said.

Karyn, one of the teenagers arrested on suspicion of trying to smuggle heroin, is being led by a Thai police officer from her cell to meet her father, Briton Eric Smith (right) at Bangkok's Dom Muang police station on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thatcher plans summer brush up of government

LONDON, July 23, (Kuna): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was today setting about the task of giving her government a summer brush up, with a reshuffle of junior and middle ranking ministers.

Speculations were mounting about the fate of some ministers of state who do not sit on the cabinet as they arrived at Downing Street this morning.

It is believed that among the victims will be Lord Brabazon minister of state at the Foreign Office, who deals specifically with the Far East, and South-East Asia.

He spent just 10 minutes at Downing Street with

the prime minister early today.

But political commentators here believed that Thatcher's main priority was to find a new financial secretary to the treasury, after Peter Lilley replaced Nicholas Ridley as trade and industry secretary.

The commentators also suggested that Thatcher intended to freshen the look of her government by getting rid of some long-serving ministers.

Meanwhile, the message from official circles here was that the reshuffle would involve only a small number of people.

India

(Continued from Page 1)



Kashmiri Muslim women shout anti-Indian slogans during a protest in downtown Srinagar on Monday against the alleged harassment and molestation of women by the Indian security forces in the house-to-house searches. (Reuters wirephoto)

19 killed in Kashmir

Govt employees go on strike

JAMMU, July 23, (AP): Indian border guards shot and killed 19 Muslim militants in two clashes today as they crossed into India-held Kashmir from Pakistan, officials said.

The officials, who can not be identified under briefing regulations, said the fighting erupted when the militants fired at Indian border guards after crossing from Pakistan.

The gunmen were identified as Kashmiri separatists, a group fighting for the independence of Muslim dominated Jammu-Kashmir from the predominantly Hindu India.

Elsewhere in Kashmir, at least

six more people were killed today, raising the toll to at least 838 dead since the government launched a "crackdown on the separatists last Jan 20.

Meanwhile, government employees in Kashmir valley went on strike today to protest alleged police excesses. Government offices were closed today in all but Jammu, where Hindus are in a slight majority.

Union officials said about 80 per cent of government workers stayed at home in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

The Indian government,

which has imposed its direct rule on the state, issued a statement saying the workers could face disciplinary action if they went ahead with the strike.

It also said they could be detained for up to 12 months under legislation outlawing strikes in essential services.

The strike excluded emergency hospital and fire services as well as the police.

The main target of the strike was the methods of the security forces, widely accused of human rights abuses in the fight against the militants which erupted in January.

in some circles, that the Soviet Union has lost interest in India just as in the Third World as a whole." Oleg Bostorin, head of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Department, told Tass news agency.

Ties between the USSR and India have been developing in an even and stable manner for over 40 years. Changes in the international and world political situation have not affected them," he said.

"Singh, who is due to leave the Soviet Union on Wednesday, told Soviet journalists his visit would promote closer political and economic co-operation. The Soviet Union is India's main arms supplier and a key trading partner."

"We now have very fruitful economic co-operation and I am sure that new opportunities, ways and forms of co-operation will open up. I will give priority to this question during my visit," he told the Communist Party daily Pravda on Sunday.

Bostorin said the Indian leader's visit would build on the friendship established during a visit to New Delhi by Gorbachev two years ago.

"The importance of Soviet-Indian relations goes far beyond the two states' direct interests. They exert a positive influence on the world climate and on international relations as a whole," he said.

Singh, like Gorbachev struggling against secessionist movements and fighting off ambitious political challengers, is accompanied by his ministers of trade, finance and foreign affairs.

An admirer of the Soviet leader's perestroika economic reform programme, Singh said he wanted to get first-hand experience of the economic and political changes taking place in the Soviet Union.

The composition of the Indian delegation suggests that the two leaders might concentrate on new economic co-operation.

Singh's talks with Gorbachev were expected to focus on India's deep economic and military ties with the Soviet Union, which an Indian newspaper said could be threatened by the Soviet Union's turn to the West.

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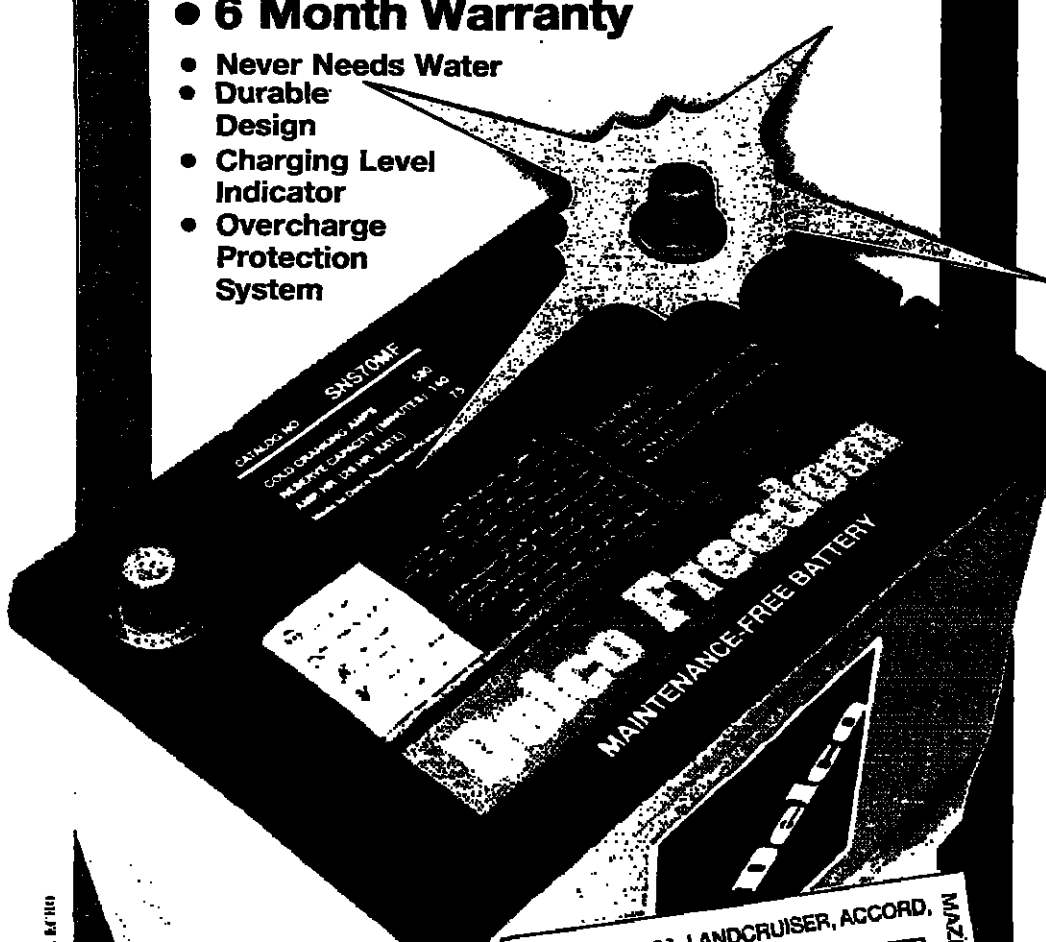
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Lebanon

(Continued from Page 1)

Long lines of fleeing villagers trudged through the rugged hills of the province, carrying household necessities under their arms and on their heads.

Most of them sought refuge at south Lebanon's major cities of Sidon, Tyre and Nabatiyeh.

Others fled to open fields, sleeping at night in cars.

"Jarjou is almost completely deserted with a few people and many Hezbollah fighters there," said one refugee, who asked not to be named.

The town has been turned into a pile of debris," he said. Police estimated that not more than 50 elderly people of Jarjou's original 5,000 inhabitants remain in the town.

About 50,000 people fled the Apple province since the latest round of Amal-Hezbollah clashes broke out.

Hezbollah appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to remove corpses

decomposing under a blazing sun in Jarjou and pledged to facilitate the humanitarian mission.

The fighting erupted last Monday when Hezbollah attacked and seized Jarjou, an Amal stronghold, seeking to expand its area of control as far as the Mediterranean coast to open a badly needed supply line to Iran.

A 600-strong Palestinian force, drawn mainly from PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah group, was deployed last Tuesday along a 7-mile-long (12-km) line, ostensibly to stop the fighting.

Amal militiamen, supported by the Palestinians, retook Jarjou in ferocious battles on Saturday. But the fundamentalists drove the more secular Amal out of town to the western entrance of Jarjou in close-quarter combat Sunday.

The PLO fears if Hezbollah expands from Jarjou downhill to

the Mediterranean they might link up with anti-Arafat Palestinian radicals and threaten the PLO bases in refugee camps near the port of Sidon, 16 kms (10 miles) northwest of Jarjou.

Lebanon's Shiite Muslim militias, locked in a three-year-old feud that has erupted with new venom, have widely different ambitions for their country.

Hezbollah wants an Iranian-style Islamic state in Lebanon, which is about 60 per cent Muslim and 40 per cent Christian.

It calls for the destruction of Israel and is hostile to conservative Arab governments.

It reviles the West, is thought to be behind the kidnapping of most of the 15 Western hostages believed held in Lebanon, though it denies the charge, and wants to purge Muslim areas of Lebanon of Western influences.

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Rushdie raps UK officials for banning film depicting his death

LONDON, July 23, (Reuters): Author Salman Rushdie has attacked British authorities for banning a Pakistani-made fantasy film which depicts him as a drunken pro-Israeli playboy killed by a bolt of lightning for attacks on the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

Friends of Rushdie, in hiding after an order from Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini that he die for blaspheming Islam, said the decision to ban the film "International Guerrillas" should be taken by a court and not by censors.

Frances D'Souza of the Salman Rushdie Defence Committee, who spoke to the author on Sunday about the ban, said he opposed it. ("He) felt the film should have a chance to

be tested in court and to ban it without the public having had a chance to view it is ... not acceptable," she said.

Rushdie, who was born to Muslim parents in India but holds British citizenship, has been in hiding since February last year when Khomeini told Muslims to kill him for insulting Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses".

A Pakistani-owned video company in London which holds the world distribution rights to the film said Britain's Board of Film Classification said it could be criminally libellous.

"Many Muslims will protest to their members of Parliament," Mohammed Fayyaz of the Tooting Video Centre said in an interview with Britain's Independent Radio News yes-

terday. "This is a case of double standards." The classification board informed the company of the ban by letter. Officials at the board were not available to comment on the decision, but the Sunday Independent newspaper said it was taken on advice from British police.

The board had said it might reconsider its decision if death calls and direct references to Rushdie were edited out of the film, the paper reported.

In the film an international syndicate tries to destabilise the Muslim world by commissioning a book critical of Islam.

Its makers have said the characters are

fictional but are intended to show that the protectors of Islam will one day track down Rushdie, who has lived at secret addresses under police guard since the Iranian death call.

The movie, which shows the Rushdie character killing and torturing Muslims, has played to packed houses in Pakistan and unofficial copies of the video are already circulating among Muslim communities in Britain.

Authors who formed a pressure group to support Rushdie's right to free expression have said the film should not be banned if it does not break the law.

In March 1989 Iran broke diplomatic rela-

tions with London over "The Satanic Verses", after Britain refused to condemn the book.

The Salman Rushdie Defence Committee issued a statement in London saying the ban was an "act of prior restraint".

"Mr Rushdie believes that regardless of its content the film should be in the public domain so that any libel or offence may be dealt with according to the due process of law," the statement said.

"The banning order, apparently due in part to pressure on an independent body by Scotland Yard, is not the result of any legal process but due rather to the fear that it might break the law. This is a dangerous precedent,"

the committee said.

"It is debatable whether the film which was to be distributed mainly in video form would expose Mr Rushdie to public hatred; it is also debatable whether the majority of British Muslims would condone, let alone support its message," it added.

A film distributor has said he may go to court in a bid to overturn a ban on the movie which depicts Rushdie, as a drunkard torturing and shooting Muslims. It was reported today.

Mohammed Fayyaz, owner of a video centre in London, which has world-wide rights to the film, said today he would go to court if necessary to overturn the ban. (Kuna).

Juggling success in 3 professions

Newman races on

CLEVELAND, July 23, (AP): The precision-cropped hair is mostly gray, but those famous blue eyes remain clear, his skin unlined and his body trim.

At 64, Academy award-winning actor Paul Newman races on, juggling success in three high-pressure, demanding professions: acting, the food business and auto racing. And his passions run high in all.

When he's not directing, acting or promoting his line of "Newman's Own" food products in the United States, he takes to the track. With his latest movie, "Mr and Mrs Bridge," ready for release this fall, Newman's ready to race.

This season, he's driving a limited schedule on the SCCA's Trans-Am circuit as the team-mate of 22-year-old Scott Sharp, the son of Bob Sharp, co-owner of Newman-Sharp Racing. Newman has watched the younger driver improve almost daily and laments one small part of ageing.

"A young driver like Scott, who's got a great gift, just keeps going faster and faster," Newman said during an interview before finishing 16th in a recent Trans-Am race in Cleveland.

"Young kids like Scott think about winning. I think about whether I'm going to have a pulse," he joked.

"When you get older and older, you start slowing down. Everything is off one-50th of 1 per cent. Your eyes are a little off, your reflexes, touch — everything. You multiply that by just a factor of 1 per cent, that's two or three seconds a lap."

But Newman, whose interest in auto racing was generated on the set of "Winning" in 1968, doesn't regret his late start in the sport he now loves.

"I started at the right time. I had the right kind of equipment," he said. "I don't regret anything. It came at the right time. I was getting bored acting."

Asked if racing revived his interest in other things, he joked that his wife, actress Joanne Woodward, says it saved their marriage. Woodward co-stars in "Mr and Mrs Bridge," a chronicle of a middle-class American family.

Turning serious again, Newman said: "You become passion-



Actor Newman as former governor of Louisiana, Earl K. Long.

ate about one thing, it leads back into something else. If you can gain a sense of passion and commitment in your life in one arena, it's bound to bleed back into other arenas."

Newman, who has earned four national amateur driving titles and two Trans-Am victories since beginning his racing career in 1972, says he never gave driving a race car much thought until he played an Indy-car driver in "Winning."

"What was it that attracted him to the sport?"

"I don't know," he said. "It was just out there, like anything else, to be learned. I started off very slowly, very cautious, as I start off everything."

Since he has been successful at so much, people tend to believe things come easily to Newman. He insists the opposite is true.

"The light that you think you emanate is not necessarily the light that other people see," he

said. "You think of yourself as a shy, retiring whatever it is, and some other people will see you in an entirely different way."

"I had always seen (tennis star) Ivan Lendl as a guy with such a gift. The gift came before the work, but not according to Lendl. He says if he lays off for three weeks, he's garbage."

"You have to constantly learn. Obviously, you have to start with some kind of gift, but people don't understand that. I don't have a gift for anything. I've only had a gift of pursuit."

"That's certainly true in acting. I can't look at the work I did 20 years ago. I can't even watch it."

"In all the things I started to attack — football, tennis — I had no gift for it at all. I had no gift for racing, either. It's just something that I really wanted to do."

Scott Sharp, sitting nearby, said, "aw, Paul, you look good at everything you do."

terday. "This is a case of double standards." The classification board informed the company of the ban by letter. Officials at the board were not available to comment on the decision, but the Sunday Independent newspaper said it was taken on advice from British police.

The board had said it might reconsider its decision if death calls and direct references to Rushdie were edited out of the film, the paper reported.

In the film an international syndicate tries to destabilise the Muslim world by commissioning a book critical of Islam.

Its makers have said the characters are

Nicotine 'sticker' helps to kick habit

BASLE, July 23, (Kuna): In yet another bid to find a treatment to assist smokers in "kicking" their habit, Swiss doctors have conducted tests on 200 smokers, experimenting with a sticker, which when stuck to the body emits small doses of pure nicotine into the blood stream.

Lasting for nine to twelve weeks, the treatment consists of applying a sticker to the body, preferably in the region of the hips, which emits progressively decreasing doses of nicotine.

In its latest edition, the "Ciba-Geigy Review," said that results of the study showed that "Nicotell TTs" (the brand name of the treatment which is manufactured by the pharmaceutical firm Ciba-Geigy) is efficient for smokers who have the existing will to renounce their habit.

The review pointed out that "Nicotell TTs," which was introduced into Swiss and German markets earlier this year, will not rid a smoker from his habit overnight, but could, within a certain time frame, assist the smoker in his endeavour to quit.

Past experience has shown, Ciba-Geigy observes, that a heavy smoker can cut down on cigarettes consumed without undergoing withdrawal symptoms if the nicotine is administered to them in a different form. This led to the testing, in the 1940s, of nicotine injections with progressively lower doses and later to the fabrication of "nicorette," an anti-tobacco chewing gum.

The "Nicotell TTs" sticker's application to the body for 24-hour periods, is a means to free the body from the craving for nicotine, which is satisfied by smoking a cigarette, according to experts who conducted the study.

The controlled administering of nicotine via a sticker assures a sufficient concentration of nicotine in the body so as to avoid the apparition of withdrawal symptoms.

During the course of the treatment the dosage can be regularly diminished by applying smaller stickers. In this manner, the patient's body becomes accustomed to receiving lower doses of nicotine, without a cigarette, which also reduces the cardiovascular effects.

Results of the experiment showed that 6 per cent of the subjects suffered from slight localised skin irritations, and a certain percentage received a placebo sticker (that is, containing no nicotine, but just as a control).

At the end of the treatment, for those who received the nicotine emissions, 40 per cent gave up smoking, and nine months later there were still 20 per cent non-smokers.

"Nicotell TTs is not therefore a miracle treatment," Ciba-Geigy stress. "It is more a precious aid considering the will to quit smoking already exists."

There have been over 30,000 studies conducted on the effects of tobacco on health, the review points out. They all confirm the detrimental effects of tobacco on health and its instrumental role in sickness and death.

One study found that, on the average, a heavy smoker was reducing his life expectancy by 8.3 years. One million men and women took part in this study.

Ciba-Geigy observes that recently-introduced cigarettes into the market which claim lower doses of nicotine are equally as dangerous as ones with a higher level.

programme was cut in 1934.

"I am just overwhelmed," Berg said, tears welling in his blue eyes. "I've always wanted to finish it."

The mural, featuring characters from classic children's literature, stands above book cases and a doorway directly opposite from another mural Berg painted in 1934.

They both had been commissioned by the Works Progress Administration.

When funding was cancelled, Berg's sketches were stored in the Museum of Art. They surfaced a few years ago, and the supporters of the library decided to sponsor the project. (AP)

BOULDER, Colorado: The New Kids on the Block repaid a favour to the group that helped make them stars.

Two years ago, when they were trying to break into the music business, the New Kids performed for 3,000 people at the Boy Scouts of America National Law Enforcement Explorer Conference in Boston. At the time, it was their biggest show, said group member Dennis Wahlberg.

Now the New Kids' single "Step by Step" is on the top of the charts and they draw huge audiences, such as the crowd of 50,000 last week at Robert F. Kennedy stadium in Washington, DC.

The group hustled here after that

SAN DIEGO: Walter Cronkite, an avid sailor, took to the waters of San Diego Bay as the narrator of a video documentary on pollution.

"Clean air and clean water should be a birthright," Cronkite said after working aboard the yacht of naval architect Art DeFever.

"Anybody who gets out in nature understands... what the problems are. I'm just another Joe out there worrying about what's going on," he said.

Cronkite, 73, who owns his own yacht, donated his time to the documentary, "Marine Pollution in San Diego — It's all of us."

The video is sponsored by the non-profit San Diego Ocean Foundation, which hopes to get it aired this fall on television. It also will be made available to schools and organisations.

Cronkite, the retired CBS television anchorman who was once dubbed the most trusted man in America, has made several other pollution-related videos. (AP)

MUSKEGON, Michigan: It took four months, but 82-year-old Wilfrid Berg finished the mural he started 56 years ago in the children's reading room of the city's public library.

The Hackley Public Library dedicated on Thursday the 29-foot (8.8 metre) mural that had been curtailed when a public arts

show to headline "Star Night" at this year's explorer conference, held at the University of Colorado.

"It was such a big show for us at the time," Wahlberg said, referring to the 1988 concert. "We just wanted to return the favour."

New Kids performed for free at Wednesday's conference, which brings together young people who plan careers in law enforcement.

...

Revelation

Cuomo signs forfeiture bill

NEW YORK, July 23, (AP): Gov. Mario Cuomo was about to sign an asset-forfeiture bill along the East River when a young woman in a passing motorboat did some forfeiting of her own.

As the boat passed the pier where Cuomo stood last week with a small group of police and prosecutors, the woman shouted "hey." Then she waved her bra and pulled down her bathing suit bottom to expose her backside.

...

TAMPA, Florida: Barbie and Ken dolls have changed through the years, but a woman here believes she's purchased a one-of-a-kind — a Ken doll dressed in Barbie's clothing.

When Carina Guillot and her 12-year-old daughter, Jocelyn, shopped in a toy store, they were shocked to find a "my first Ken" doll clad in a purple tank top and lace apron over a turquoise and purple skirt.

"My daughter was looking at the Barbies. I was looking at the Kens," said Mrs Guillot. "When I looked at this one, I said, 'Oh, my god, now we have a crossed-dressed Ken.'"

Store director Greg Warren said he and other employees examined the cardboard package and concluded its seal was intact. Employees found no duplicates. Warren said.

Donna Gibbs, a spokeswoman for the dolls' manufacturer, Mattel Inc., said she had "no idea how this woman got the Ken doll she got."

"This either slipped through or something happened on the retail level, but I'd guess it slipped through the inspectors," she said, adding that Mattel would replace the \$8.99 doll.

"We don't want another Ken doll," Mrs Guillot said. "This is like a real collector's item." (AP)

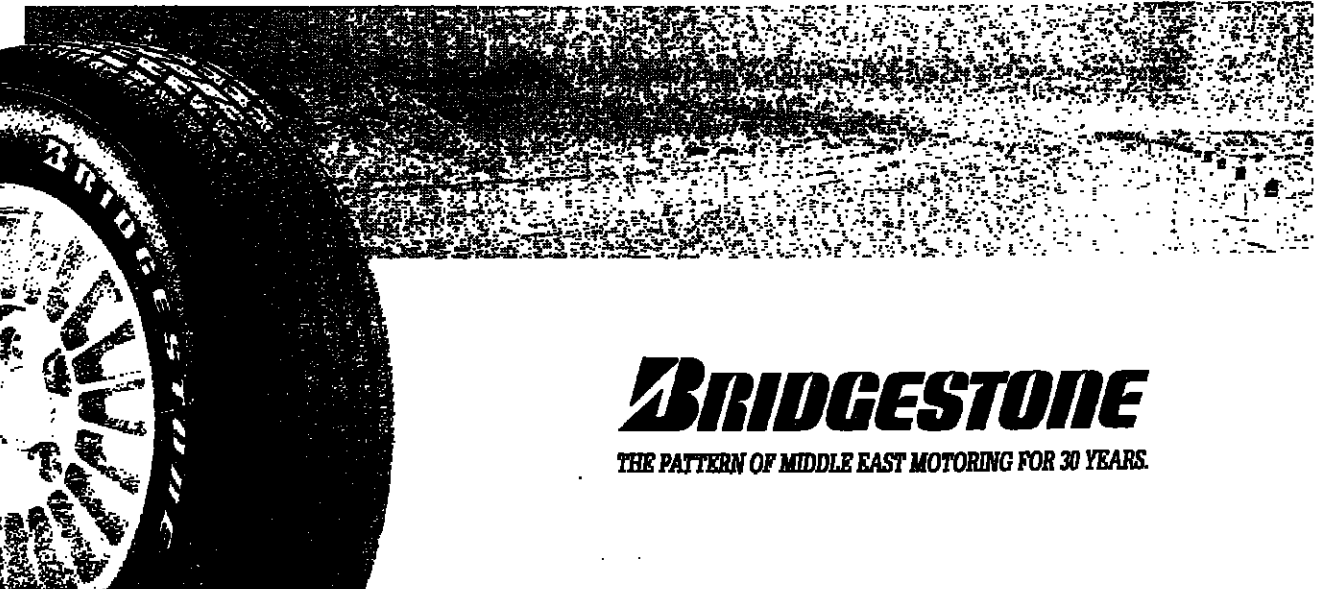
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PART I:

1 Tick (✓) the correct block/s.
The largest Muslim country in population is:
() Saudi Arabia.
() Pakistan
() Indonesia

2 The Muslim population in the world is about:
() 1,250 million
() 1,000 million
() 950 million

3 The Muslim countries that participated in the 5th Islamic Summit Conference held in Kuwait (1985) were:
() 65 countries
() 46 countries
() 35 countries

4 The first pillar of Islam is:
() Salat
() Shahadat
() Zakat
() Siyam
() Hajj

5 Put the following Religions in the correct chronological order (number them):
() Christianity
() Islam
() Judaism

PART II: Islam in my point of view

Write an article of 150-200 words about Islam in your point of view.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
RELIGION: _____ PHONE: (if available) _____

Conditions

- Everyone over 15 is eligible
- May use coupon or mail to I.P.C.
- Answer Part I or Part II or both.
- Deadline 31-7-1990

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Reviewing North's trial embarrassing

Prosecutors may decide to appeal the court-ordered examination

WASHINGTON, July 23, (AP): Now that a federal appeals court has vacated all three of the convictions in the celebrated Iran-Contra trial of former National Security Adviser Oliver North, prosecutors must decide what to do.

The court vacated the convictions on Friday because of the possibility the case was tainted by North's televised testimony to Congress. North testified before Congress with a grant of immunity

from prosecution.

In addition to sending the entire case back to US district judge Gerhard Gesell, the court reversed one conviction outright — that North altered and destroyed National Security Council documents. That means the only way the conviction might be reinstated would be through a new trial.

The prospect of reviewing every single word of testimony given at North's trial is so daunting,

prosecutors may decide instead to appeal the court-ordered examination.

They also could drop the case altogether, but that's unlikely given the track record of the Iran-Contra prosecutor's office, which has been aggressively pursuing the arms and money scandal for more than 3 1/2 years.

North was convicted in May 1989 on three of 12 charges — aiding and abetting an obstruction of

Congress, altering and destroying National Security Council documents and accepting an illegal gratuity.

The charges related to the Iran-Contra scandal, which involved advisers to former President Ronald Reagan diverting money from the secret sale of weapons to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels at a time when US aid to the rebels was outlawed.



Former White House aide Oliver North (left) talks to reporters after a US Court of appeals overturned his conviction. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cops raid weekend acid party at Leeds

LEEDS, England, July 23, (AP): Police have released 836 people arrested at a weekend party where drugs were seized, and charges may be filed in some cases, authorities said today.

"We have been branded as killjoys, stopping people enjoying themselves, but we are concerned about the safety of people," said assistant chief constable Denis O'Toole.

O'Toole said police were seeking to identify the organisers, drug dealers and those responsible for the "extreme violence" after police raid an "acid house" party yesterday morning.

The raid at a disused warehouse in northern England started a battle in which police said they were pelted with rocks, bricks, broken glass and smashed furniture.

Acid house, synthesised music with a simple beat, often is associated with taking hallucinogenic drugs.

The raid took place in Gildersome near Leeds, 185 miles (297 kilometres) north of London.

An undetermined number of police, believed to be several hundred drafted in from all over west Yorkshire, took part in the raid.

Police said they seized LSD, marijuana and amphetamines in the raid at a disused warehouse in northern England. They said the drugs had a street value of more than £2,000 (\$3,600).

The police said three of their officers needed hospital treatment, one of them for a gashed jaw when he was hit by a plank and the others for injuries to faces and hands. They said they were pelted with rocks, bricks, broken glass and smashed furniture.

There were no reports of injuries among those at the party.

Police said those arrested — for alleged drugs possession, breach of the peace and criminal damage — were taken to 30 police stations across west Yorkshire and detained while identities and addresses were checked. Most of those arrested were released later in the day, police said.

It was the biggest such raid to date in Britain. West Yorkshire police had arrested 236 people at an acid house party near Wakefield in June.

There have been similar but much smaller police raids on acid house parties elsewhere in England, usually after residents nearby complained of cars and motorcycles arriving in the middle of the night and of loud, continuous music.

Pollard to divorce jailed wife

NEW YORK, July 23, (Reuters): Jonathan Pollard, sentenced by a US court to life in prison in 1987 for passing secret documents to Israel, said in a statement released on Saturday that his decision to divorce his jailed wife was his alone.

In the statement released by Pollard's rabbi here, the convicted spy said his marriage to Anne Pollard, imprisoned for aiding and abetting him, had been in jeopardy for some time.

Rabbi Avi Weiss said in the statement that Pollard had decided to speak out about his decision after seeing "distortions" in news media reports of his earlier announcement. Weiss did not elaborate.

"The decision to seek a divorce is mine and mine alone," Pollard was quoted as saying. "It was reached after a long and agonising reflection. I was not influenced by any party."

"Certainly, the decision to file for divorce should not come as a surprise to Anne. The marriage has been in jeopardy for some time and, in fact, I was not the first one to raise the issue."

Mrs Pollard, 29, was sentenced in 1987 to two concurrent five-year terms for her role as an accessory to the spying operation. She suffers from an intestinal disease that leaves her hunched over the often unable to ingest food.

She charged last year that she had received inadequate care in a federal prison in Minnesota but a federal magistrate ruled that she had to remain there.

Missing woman mystery

Cracks chess puzzle

LONDON, July 23, (AP): A chess expert drew inspiration from Sherlock Holmes and Lewis Carroll to crack a crime that had stumped police, he said today. Police believe a missing woman is dead and is buried somewhere in Ireland and the chess expert's work "would appear to reinforce these views," detective superintendent Roy Fletcher of Lancashire police said today.

The puzzle is a crude map and a series of moves for a black king, a black queen, a black pawn and "white king — all pawns."

Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of the Times of London and an international grand master, said the puzzle's author shows "tremendous intellectual arrogance, allied with a perverted ingenuity and rooted in the belief that he can dangle all sorts of intellectual clues in front of the police's nose without their being able to solve them."

Fletcher said Theresa Terry, 43 has been missing since January. He said a suspect, Colin English, had been arrested in June and charged with fraud in relation to funds taken from Mrs Terry's bank account.

"While in custody he drew a map which he says gives the answer to where she is buried," Fletcher said. "He claims she died at her own hand."

Keene, who was given the puzzle on Friday, said he was unable to pin down the burial site, but "it is my firm belief that the body is located ... some miles northwest of Limerick."

Fletcher said he planned to contact Irish police today "with a view to localising their search to the area indicated by the map."

Keene wrote in today's editions of the Times that the diagram was a crude mirror image of southern Ireland, rotated 90 degrees to put east at the bottom, and that Roman numerals stood for various places in England and Ireland.

He believes the black king is the suspect, the black queen is the victim, the black pawn is the suspect's brother, and the white pawns are the police — "a scarcely veiled insult to the suspect's assessment of the competence of the police force."

Keene wrote that the moves appear to show events between Jan 18, when Mrs Terry left Lancashire for London, and Jan 23, when the suspect returned from Ireland. He said the moves indicate financial transactions that tally with police evidence of the use of Mrs Terry's visa card.

Keene said he was encouraged in solving the problem by recalling a Sherlock Holmes story called "The Dancing Men," in which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective breaks a code based on figures of dancing stick men.

Keene said the moves are made by the black pieces. That and the mirror-image motif recalled Lewis Carroll's story in which Alice enters a world of reflections peopled mainly by chess pieces.

'US ignored drugs plan'

Letter sent to Bush

BANGKOK, Thailand, July 23, (AP): Khun Sa, Burma's reputed opium warlord, says he sent US President George Bush a six-year plan to rid the Golden Triangle of narcotics but has had no response, a Thai newspaper reported yesterday.

Khun Sa said he sent a letter and videotape to Bush. He blamed Washington's rejection of this and other offers to eradicate drugs for a sharp rise in opium production in the Triangle this year, the Bangkok Post said.

The Triangle is where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Burma meet to form one of the world's major sources of illicit drugs.

US officials announced in March that Khun Sa had been indicted on heroin trafficking charges in a US district court. But they did not say how they would get Khun Sa out of his jungle lairs in eastern Burma and put him on trial.

The newspaper said Khun Sa denied the charges, and said he only taxed traffickers travelling through areas controlled by his army, which ostensibly is fighting Burma's government for autonomy for the Shan ethnic minority.

He vowed to fight the US charges "like a cornered dog."

The Bangkok Post quoted him as saying the heroin refineries in Shan state were owned by people of several nationalities, including Americans.

The Nation newspaper said yesterday that Khun Sa was interviewed Tuesday at a mountainous hideout in Shan state.

It quoted him as saying that if



Drug warlord Khun Sa smiles as he listens to reporters' questions during an interview at his military base in Burma's Shan state. The opium kingpin accused the United States of having no real intention of resolving the narcotics problem. (Reuters wirephoto)

the Americans want to eradicate narcotics, "they have to come to us and our people and educate them. But so far I have never heard from them that they want to help us."

The people in Shan state, he said, have to grow poppy "to buy rice, clothing and blankets."

He said there were more than 100 heroin laboratories in areas that he taxed, the Nation reported.

Khun Sa said he did not believe the United States would invade Burma to arrest him in the way that they invaded Panama to get Gen Manuel Noriega.

UK, Spain to fight drugs on Gibraltar

MADRID, July 23, (Reuters): British and Spanish officials conferred in Madrid today on joint action against drug smuggling around the British colony of Gibraltar — activities Spain has called "a cancerous tumour" on its south coast.

A British embassy spokesman said those taking part included Barry Price, head of Britain's National Drugs Intelligence Unit, Gibraltar police chief Joe Canapa, Scotland Yard detectives, Pedro Nicolas, director-general of Spain's Investigative Police, Colonel Arsenio Ayuso of the Civil Guard and Spanish diplomats.

"We hope it will lead to increased co-operation, but there is already a large degree of co-operation," said the spokesman.

Spain has a long-standing claim to Gibraltar, which was ceded to Britain under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, and alleges the tiny colony is a centre for drug smuggling and for laundering its proceeds — charges which local officials deny.

It has asked Gibraltar to tighten banking controls and anti-drug policing in the colony but British officials say the Rock already has tougher financial legislation and anti-drug smuggling laws than Spain.

Bankers in Gibraltar fear that Spain's insistence that the colony is a money-laundering centre is damaging its reputation as a budding offshore financial centre.

British officials play down the importance of the Rock as an entry-point for drugs into Spain and say smugglers bringing drugs from Africa are unlikely to choose it as a dropping-off point when they can drop drugs directly onto Spanish beaches.

Doe vows to stay, fight to the finish

Convinced he is invincible, black magic will save him

MONROVIA, July 23, (AP): President Samuel Doe says he won't leave the besieged capital until the civil war is decided. Sources say that at any rate, fleeing would not be easy because the soldiers guarding Doe won't let him go without them.

The 500-member presidential guard, made up of soldiers from Doe's Krahn tribe, fear massacre at the hands of the rebels, who have fought their way to within a mile (1-1/2 kilometres) of Doe's oceanfront mansion.

The rebels, who are mostly from the rival Gio and Mano ethnic groups, were locked in street combat with Doe's regular troops yesterday, the sources said.

They said some government soldiers were urging the president to flee to avoid a bloodbath and that there was bitter infighting in the executive mansion. Doe has been deserted by nearly all senior members of his government.

Doe, in a telex to the British Broadcasting Corp., said yesterday that he would remain until "a clear victor emerges."

The presidential mansion, which has a commanding view of the city, was stockpiled with ammunition and explosives in preparation for a

final rebel assault, said a diplomatic source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The president remained "convinced he is invincible," the source said, adding that he expected Doe to fight to the finish. The source said Doe was "relying increasingly on his belief that black magic will save him."

Rebel troops have overrun all of the Bushrod Island district containing the city's port, fuel and the storage depots and repair shops.

Yesterday, they were trying to capture the two bridges leading into the centre of Monrovia. Fighting was heavy, and Doe's forces fired their 40-tube, Romanian-made, multiple-rocket launcher toward the rebel-held bridge across the St. Paul's river north of the city.

Doe's eight-story mansion was like a desolate military camp, with soldiers roaming the otherwise empty hallways. The president was cowering in his fifth-floor apartment.

Sources inside the mansion said Doe's Krahn bodyguards had gathered Saturday with the president and told him they would refuse to allow him to leave unless their collective safety was guaranteed.

The Krahn fear the rebels will kill them in revenge for the killings of many civilians who support the rebels.

Some retribution killings already have been reported by journalists with the rebels.

In exchange for allowing Doe to leave, the Krahn soldiers seek safe passage to their home territory in Grand Gedeh county. Grand Gedeh is Doe's last remaining stronghold, apart from his patch of downtown Monrovia.

But Charles Taylor's rebel National Patriotic Front would fiercely resist any effort by Doe to evacuate his forces to his home region. With the Gio and Mano tribes — among the country's largest — firmly on Taylor's side, the civil war has turned into an outright tribal conflict.

The rebels began their offensive in December and effectively control two-thirds of the country. They have accused Doe, who took power in a 1980 coup, of corruption, mismanagement and human rights abuses. Taylor has promised to maintain close ties with the United States if he comes to power, but he has ruled out immediate elections.

The African nation, founded by freed American slaves 150 years ago, has traditionally had close ties with Washington.

The US embassy has been trying to persuade Doe to flee the capital. Washington refused to send in a peacekeeping force and on Saturday Doe ordered the American military attaché expelled, accusing him of helping the rebels. The United States denied the accusations.

Representatives of the government and the rebels have met intermittently for peace talks in neighbouring Sierra Leone, but the negotiations failed to make any progress.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democratic member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said it would be a mistake for Bush to base his choice on how prospective nominees view abortion rights.

Leahy, appearing on a national television news programme yesterday said there was "a very real question ... on whether the Senate would go along with" a nominee who had been selected because he or she would vote a particular way on abortion.

In recent years the Republican Party's national programme has advocated restricting situations where abortions are permitted. The opposition Democrats have generally supported the right to an abortion.

Bush is a Republican. Both houses of Congress are dominated by Democrats.

Republican Sen. Bob Dole, on another news programme, agreed there would be "a blood bath getting the nomination confirmed" in the Senate if the president chose a nominee based on an "litmus test" of his or her position on abortion.

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Rebels of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) look for signs of life in a comrade shot dead in a battle on the outskirts of the capital Monrovia on July 14. The man was apparently shot accidentally by another rebel. Such incidents are common in the poorly trained rebel army. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bush warned: avoid abortion 'litmus test'

Brennan successor

WASHINGTON, July 23, (AP): Senators yesterday warned US President George Bush not to apply an anti-abortion "litmus test" as he searches for a successor to retired Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan.

Brennan, 84, resigned Friday citing his age and health. He had been a key liberal justice on the court for 33 years.

The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body in the United States. In one of its most contentious rulings, the court in 1973 found that women have a constitutional right to abortion.

Since then, especially during the 1980s presidency of Ronald Reagan, abortion advocates and opponents have fought desperately for the appointment of justices adhering to their views.

Conservatives have held a slim 5-4 majority on the court and liberals fear Brennan's successor could push the court further to the right and jeopardise the interpretation of the US constitutional as allowing women the right to abortions.

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Mohawks show no sign of capitulating

OKA, Quebec, July 23, (Reuters): Armed Mohawk Indians, who set up barricades on contested land near a small Quebec town, showed no sign of capitulating to police yesterday as their food supplies began to dwindle.

The Indians rose in armed revolt last week to protest against plans to turn a tribal burial ground into a golf course in the resort town of Oka, about 20 miles (32 kms) west of Montreal. Quebec police officer in a fierce battle with the Indians, both parties continued to eye each other warily across barricades strung around the Kanesatake reserve.

"We will be here for a long time," said one heavily-armed Mohawk, who declined to be identified.

Another said: "It took 500 years to get to this, we'll see how long it takes to get us out."

The Canadian government has said it will not negotiate to end the dispute between natives and local residents until the natives lay down their arms.

The police have cordoned off the small resort town as well as the nearby reservation, cutting most food supplies to the hundreds of natives inside.

A caravan of about 150 area sympathisers attempted yesterday to bring boxes of food to the natives but were stopped and forced to leave the provisions with Trappist monks in Oka.

The native Americans have constructed makeshift checkpoints throughout the dense pine forests and Mohawks stationed at Oka, carrying AK-47 assault rifles and heavy calibre pistols, nightly patrol the thick forest that surrounds the reservation.



A Mohawk Indian, armed with an AK-47 weapon keeps a lookout over a police roadblock from the Mohawks blockade position. (Reuters wirephoto)

Antigua arms probe spotlights Bird family feud

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, July 23, (Reuters): A royal commission this week began probing an arms deal that saw Israeli arms channelled to Colombia's drug lords, putting an unwelcome spotlight on the long-ruling family of Antigua's Prime Minister Vere Bird.

The independent investigation is charged with finding out how a shipment of 100 Uz sub-machine-guns and 400 Gali sniper rifles consigned to the Caribbean nation found its way into the hands of Colombian drug dealers.

It also aims to find out exactly what part in the affair was played by one of the prime minister's

sons, Vere Bird Jr.

Israeli officials say the order, worth some \$300,000 and supposedly destined for the 70-member Antiguan Defence Force, was approved by Vere Bird Jr, who is alleged to have styled himself minister of defence, a non-existent post, in correspondence.

The probe, headed by the British jurists Louis Blom-Cooper, was requested by the Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird, another of the prime minister's sons, and approved by his father.

The two brothers have been battling for years to succeed their 81-year-old father, who has been in power in the former British colony, with one five-year exception, since 1967.

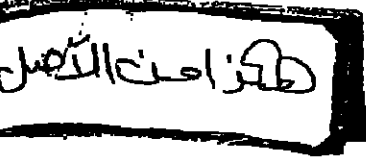
The commission, headed by British jurists Louis Blom-Cooper, is expected to release its findings in September. It began hearings today.

Vere Bird Jr was removed from his post as minister of public works in April by his father after Lester Bird went public with a complaint by Colombia that arms consigned to Antigua had turned up in raids on the strongholds of a Medellin drug cartel baron.

"Lester would really do just about anything to put his brother away," said Baldwin Spencer.



Soldiers from an elite anti-guerrilla unit parade in downtown Bogota on July 20, as part of the festivities on the 180th anniversary of Colombian independence. Colombia is undergoing one of the worst crises of its history, waging a war against the drug cartels. (Reuters wirephoto)



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1	Scrapper WABCO 339F, chassis No. 6P320918PA7-M, engine No. 12VA061617	1979	70,000	Aqaba	38	Electric Generator with Extendable Light Mast POLYMA PL12-9, chassis No. 52850, engine No. 654852	1979	4,500	Aqaba	66	Concrete Floater DYNAPAC BG-35, chassis No. 946900	1980	500	Bar
2	Scrapper WABCO 339F, chassis No. 6P320928PA7-M, engine No. 12VA061610	1979	70,000	Aqaba	37	Water Desalination Plant HIDROTEHNIK HC-R05	1985	100,000	Aqaba	67	Concrete Floater DYNAPAC BG-33, chassis No. 946901	1980	500	Bar
3	Scrapper WABCO 339F, chassis No. 6P320958PA7-M, engine No. 12VA064580	1979	70,000	Aqaba	38	Forklift LITOSTROJ V-10 IHS-402, chassis No. 670167118, engine No. 651001492	1985	20,000	Aqaba	68	Concrete Floater DYNAPAC BG-35, chassis No. 945616	1980	500	Bar
4	Buildozer CAT 824C, engine No. 70V8370	1979	65,000	Aqaba	39	Water Chiller CARRIER 630-105, chassis No. 05910	1980	8,500	Aqaba	69	Asphalt Paver-finisher ABG 2608, chassis No. 234150, engine No. 6247361	1980	45,000	Bar
5	Soil Mixer BOMAG MPH100, chassis No. 85313, engine No. 8VA489515	1979	52,000	Aqaba	40	Smooth Roller DYNAPAC CA-25	1987	22,000	Aqaba	70	Vibrator DYNAPAC CM-15	1980	300	Bar
6	Soil Mixer BOMAG MPH100, chassis No. 85315, engine No. 8VA489523	1979	52,000	Aqaba	41	Sheep's Foot Roller DYNAPAC CA-25	1987	25,000	Aqaba	71	Vibrator DYNAPAC CM-15	1980	300	Bar
7	Vibrating Roller DYNAPAC CA-50A, chassis No. 404024, engine No. 90N81417	1980	38,000	Aqaba	42	Wood Planer A. SPASIC IS-504, chassis No. 10183	1985	1,100	Aqaba	72	Vibrator DYNAPAC CM-15	1980	300	Bar
8	Electric Generator CAT SR-43408, chassis No. A548H674, engine No. 62816078	1980	9,000	Aqaba	43	Tipper Truck MAN 32.281DHK, chassis No. 5071312M040730, engine No. 35850800253113	1985	35,000	Aqaba	73	Vibrator DYNAPAC CM-15	1980	300	Bar
9	Electric Generator POLYMA PD-216/5, chassis No. 51078, engine No. 8116587	1979	6,500	Aqaba	44	Tipper Truck MAN 32.281DHK, chassis No. 5071309M040680, engine No. 358507903131113	1985	35,000	Aqaba	74	Vibrator DYNAPAC CM-15	1980	300	Bar
10	Mobile Workshop FAP 14K, chassis No. 73315, engine No. 106	1980	17,000	Aqaba	45	Tipper Truck MAN 32.281DHK, chassis No. 5071308M040545, engine No. 3580780263113	1985	35,000	Aqaba	75	Vibrator DYNAPAC CM-15	1980	300	Bar
11	Tractor MAN 32.280DHS, chassis No. 42301880-174, engine No. 3283575062-3110	1980	25,000	Aqaba	46	Tipper Truck MAN 32.281DHK, chassis No. 5071306M040589, engine No. 35850770393113	1985	35,000	Aqaba	76	Electric Generator WESTCOPOWER, chassis No. 81032719, engine No. 453251231-06	1980	1,000	Bar
12	Tipping Semi-trailer GORICA PK-35, chassis No. 91724	1980	4,000	Aqaba	47	Truck Tipper MAN 32.281DHK, chassis No. 5071315M040847, engine No. 35850820353113	1985	35,000	Aqaba	77	Electric Generator BRUSH 17.5KVA, chassis No. 30581-5, engine No. 219932803	1980	1,000	Bar
13	Water Tanker MAN 32.280DHS, chassis No. 42308070859, engine No. 3283590453110	1980	12,000	Aqaba	48	Truck FAP 1921BK, chassis No. 98873, engine No. 144103	1985	12,000	Aqaba	78	Electric Generator LISTER, chassis No. SF32803, engine	1980	1,500	Bar
14	Truck Mixer MAN 32.280DHS, chassis No. 42301930108, engine No. 32835760494410	1980	13,500	Aqaba	49	Tractor MAN 32.280DFT, chassis No. 42527472754, engine No. 35850770393110	1980	28,000	Aqaba	79	Water Pump DEUTZ, chassis No. 5616077	1981	1,000	Bar
15	Buildozer CAT D9H chassis No. 90V8336, engine No. 97U11735	1979	105,000	Aqaba	50	Including low-bed semi-trailer GORICA PN-62R04, chassis No. 96708, model year 1980	1980	35,000	Aqaba	80	Water Pump WESTCO, chassis No. 6-037, engine No. 33588-ST3A2907	1980	1,500	Bar
16	Loader CAT 980C, chassis No. 63X02630, engine No. 70V10302	1979	65,000	Aqaba	51	Tractor MAN 32.280DFT, chassis No. 42533728314, engine No. 3284075020-3110	1980	35,000	Aqaba	81	Water Pump ALCON, engine No. 816-02-04	1980	1,000	Bar
17	Vibrating Roller DYNAPAC, CC-50A, chassis No. 4050-24, engine No. 90N40806	1980	35,000	Aqaba	52	Including tipping semi-trailer GORICA 35T, chassis No. 8718, model year 1980; semi-trailer KOMERC-GOSA 30T, chassis No. 8031, model year 1980; and semi-trailer cement bulk carrier GOSA 26M3, chassis No. 8668, model year 1980	1980	35,000	Aqaba	82	Electric Welding Machine LINKON, chassis No. 3584N-530515E, engine No. 908037	1980	1,500	Bar
18	Vibrating Roller DYNAPAC CA-515, chassis No. 479150, engine No. 90N39533	1980	25,000	Aqaba	53	Truck with hydraulic crane FAP 1816, chassis No. 4577139, engine No. 125566	1980	5,000	Aqaba	83	Electric Welding Machine LINKON	1980	1,500	Bar
19	Pneumatic Roller HAMM GRV15, chassis No. 2513195, engine No. 6261031	1980	12,000	Aqaba	54	Flatbed Lorry MERCEDES 1213/420K, chassis No. 36781113002985, engine No. 36791040004826	1985	13,000	Aqaba	84	Welding Transformer RADE KONCAR	1980	60	Bar
20	Vibrating Sheep's Foot Roller DYNAPAC CA-25PD, chassis No. 4972481, engine No. 90N50373	1980	25,000	Aqaba	55	Refrigerator Truck MERCEDES 1213, chassis No. 45700513002381, engine No. 3621880102	1985	28,000	Aqaba	85	Welding Transformer RADE KONCAR	1980	60	Bar
21	Motor Grader 14 OKTOBAR 146, chassis No. 96U3870, engine No. 3N65018	1979	45,000	Aqaba	56	Water Tanker MAN 32.280DHS, chassis No. 42308060840, engine No. 308396704-3310	1979	15,000	Aqaba	86	Forklift JUMBO, chassis No. 1918, engine No. 17288	1980	12,000	Bar
22	Mobile Air Compressor FAGRAM PZ-580, chassis No. 862826, engine No. 841006534	1985	18,000	Aqaba	57	Water Tanker MAN 32.280DHS, chassis No. 42308100844, engine No. 3283860483110	1979	20,000	Aqaba	87	Mobile Crane DWH OMEGA 20, chassis No. SR-9843	1980	28,000	Bar
23	Asphalt Plant MARINI M150E-205	1970	215,000	Aqaba	58	Water Tanker MAN 32.280DHS, chassis No. 5085407M040682, engine No. 35850760203313	1985	25,000	Aqaba	88	Field Tractor Trailer IMT, chassis No. 1926	1980	350	Bar
24	Bitumen Heater MARINI FF290	1981	62,000	Aqaba	59	Water Tanker MAN 32.281DF, chassis No. 5085408M040679, engine No. 35850780193313	1985	25,000	Aqaba	89	Field Tractor Trailer IMT, chassis No. 1984	1980	350	Bar
25	Asphalt Paver-Finisher ABG 410S, chassis No. 213498, engine No. 8289395	1980	65,000	Aqaba	60	Excavator 14 OKTOBAR BGH600, chassis No. 147, engine No. 792000465	1980	22,000	Bar	90	Semi-trailer KOMERC GOSA, chassis No. 8847	1980	3,500	Bar
26	Bar Bending Machine PEDING-HOUSE DIA 32	1979	12,000	Aqaba	61	Excavator 14 OKTOBAR BGH600, chassis No. 148, engine No. 792000458	1980	22,000	Bar	91	Cement Bulk Carrier GOSA FPMCH27, chassis No. 8864	1980	9,000	Bar
27	Aggregate Spreader DYNAPAC HS355, chassis No. 428	1981	2,000	Aqaba	62	Motor Grader CAT 14G, chassis No. 96U04868, engine No. 3N85372	1980	55,000	Bar	92	Cement Bulk Carrier GOSA FPMCH27, chassis No. 88657	1980	10,000	Bar
28	Aggregate Spreader DYNAPAC HS355, chassis No. 429	1981	2,000	Aqaba	63	Vibrating Sheepfoot Roller DYNAPAC CA25PD, chassis No. 4971979, engine No. 90N41055	1980	35,000	Bar	93	Cement Bulk Carrier GOSA FPMCH27, chassis No. 88661	1980	9,000	Bar
29	Electric Generator CAT SR43408, chassis No. 498H7333, engine No. 67U5644	1980	13,000	Aqaba	64	Tractor MAN 32.280DHS, chassis No. 42301870173, engine No. 3283875060-3110	1980	18,000	Bar	94	Cement Bulk Carrier GOSA FPMCH27, chassis No. 88663	1980	9,000	Bar
30	Electric Generator CAT SR43408, chassis No. 498H9080, engine No. 67U5580	1980	13,000	Aqaba	65	Cement Bulk Carrier GOSA, chassis No. 8591	1980	9,000	Bar	95	Excavator RADOJE DAKIC G-1000, chassis No. 357, engine No. 851001644	1985	36,000	Bar
31	Electric Generator CAT SR43408, chassis No. 498H9080, engine No. 67U5580	1980	13,000	Aqaba						96	Buildozer 14 OKTOBAR TG140B, chassis No. 30244, engine No. 144288	1985	30,000	Bar
32	Electric Generator CAT SR43408, chassis No. 498H9080, engine No. 67U5580	1980	13,000	Aqaba						97	Buildozer 14 OKTOBAR TG140B, chassis No. 30245, engine No. 144263	1985	30,000	Bar
33	Electric Generator POLYMA MLO/24857, chassis No. 5124, engine No. 43038160484101	1980	3,500	Aqaba						98	Loader 14 OKTOBAR ULT220, chassis No. 5303, engine No. 148014	1985	53,000	Bar
34	Electric Generator INTER-SCHALT 1500DF-1 chassis No. 410049/6, engine No. 175190017	1979	3,000	Aqaba						99	Loader 14 OKTOBAR ULT160B, chassis No. 8649, engine No. 147464	1985	38,000	Bar
35	Electric Generator with Extendable Light Mast POLYMA PL12-9, chassis No. 50958, engine No. 6116594	1979	5,000	Aqaba						100	Loader 14 OKTOBAR ULT160B, chassis No. 3720, engine No. 143285	1985	25,000	Bar

II. CONDITIONS OF SALE

- Bidders may submit their written offers to GP PLANUM, Commercial Department, 22. oktobra 15, 11080 Zemun, Yugoslavia (or to telex No. 11136 PLANUM YU, or telefax No. 011 196903) not later than August 31, 1990.
- Any offer comprising several items of plant & equipment may be considered by GP PLANUM as individual offers for those items and only some of those offers may be accepted. No lump sum offers comprising several items shall be considered.
- All plant & equipment is sold in its current condition ("as is") and no guarantee against apparent or hidden defects and malfunctioning shall be given by GP PLANUM.
- All plant & equipment is sold and delivered ex Free Zone Aqaba, Jordan, or Free Zone Bar, Yugoslavia, as the case may be, loaded on buyer's vehicle.
- The agreed price shall be net, in USA DOLLARS, and any expenses such as transport cost, custom duty, taxes, and incidentals that may occur or be levied

upon or in connection with every respective sale shall be for the account and paid by the respective buyers.

- Accepted bidders shall be notified by September 15, 1990. They shall conclude with GP PLANUM, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, a model contract providing for payment by irrevocable documentary credit payable against presentation of Forwarders' Certificate of Receipt as well as for conditions mentioned in points 3., 4., and 5. above. Model contracts are obtainable directly from GP PLANUM, or from AMIN KAWAR & SONS CO. W.L.L., Chartering and Shipping Agents, P.O. Box 22, Aqaba, Jordan (telephone 03 314217, telex 62220, telefax 03 313618), as well as from DAR TRANZIT, Bar, Yugoslavia (telephone 085 28761, telex 63247, telefax 085 28758).
- Plant & equipment may be inspected and checked at its present locations in Jordan and Yugoslavia upon contacting the forwarders mentioned in point 6. above, between August 5 and August 20, 1990.



South Korea's main opposition leader Kim Dae-jung leads 79 other parliamentarians in resigning from the National Assembly yesterday to back demands for new elections. (Reuters wirephoto)



South Korean President Roh Tae-woo (left) orders his cabinet on July 21 to go ahead with preparations to temporarily open Seoul's tightly-sealed borders with communist North Korea in mid-August despite a rebuff from Pyongyang. North Korea set strict conditions on the border-opening, including the repeal of Seoul's security laws. (Reuters wirephoto)



South Korean Defence Minister Lee Sang-hoon (right) proposes talks with North Korea on forming an investigation team to verify the existence of alleged "concrete wall" along the border yesterday during a joint news conference with Unification Minister Hong Sung-chul (centre) and Justice Minister Yi Jong. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mass rally planned

80 deputies quit in Seoul

SEOUL, July 23. (Agencies) South Korea took a new move today to realise "grand inter-Korean exchanges of people" next month and North Korea sought to remove arms and guards from Panmunjom to allow the truce village to be the site of a mass rally of South and North Koreans.

In Seoul, ministers of national unification, defence and justice proposed separate meetings of military officials and legal experts of the two Koreas on Friday to discuss demands North Korea set forth as conditions for cross-border flows of visitors.

At Panmunjom 35 miles (56 km) north of Seoul, North Korea met the US-led United Nations Command (UNC) and asked that the two sides withdraw weapons and military personnel from the truce site to allow a gathering of Koreans to take place in mid-August.

North Korea also sent identical letters to President Roh Tae-woo, Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon and opposition leaders Kim Dae Jung and Lee Ki-Taek proposing a meeting on Friday of four officials from each side representing the government and political parties.

Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon said three military experts from each side meet on Friday at Panmunjom to discuss a North Korean demand for the demolition of a border concrete wall allegedly built by the South.

Lee said North Korea may check any part of the border areas in the South to ascertain the presence of the alleged wall but the North should allow the South to conduct a similar on-the-spot border check in North Korea.

The defence minister proposed that a public investigation be also conducted on underground tunnels North Korea built along the border. Four such tunnels have so far been found but the North has denied responsibility for them.

Lee said there is no wall sealing off the 250 km (155 mile) border between the two Koreas. What exist are anti-tank barriers, 3-6 metres (yards) high, extending 30 km (18.6 miles) of the border, he said.

Justice Minister Lee Jong-Nam said three legal experts from each side get together on Friday and discuss without restrictions North Korean demands for the scrapping of the national security law and the release of those jailed for illegal trips to the North.

■ Opposition lawmakers carried out their threat to quit the National Assembly today to force new elections.

Assembly Speaker Park Jyun-Kyu indicated that he will not accept the opposition resignations. The ruling Democratic Liberal Party, which controls more than two thirds of the 299 parliamentary seats, decided to turn down the opposition bid to leave parliament.



An elderly Mongolian votes inside his yurt in the hilly region of Gachuur, inside the capital Ulan Bator on July 22. Mongolians vote in the initial stage of the first multi-party elections.

Mongolians flock to vote in first free polls

'Results not yet clear'

BEIJING, July 23. (UPI): Mongolia's first multi-party election was conducted fairly and in an atmosphere of excitement, with great numbers of voters enthusiastically casting ballots. Mongolian and foreign observers reported today.

Officials estimated that turnout in yesterday's election was better than 80 per cent in many precincts in the Ulan Bator, the Mongolian capital, according to observers and activists reached by telephone from the Chinese capital.

Election results were expected to be tabulated and released by late today. The top two vote-getters in 430 parliamentary districts will face off in a general election next Sunday. Seats in provincial and local assemblies also were up for grabs in yesterday's polling.

"The elections were quite fair,

but the results are not yet clear," said Sanjaasurengijn Oyuna, 26, whose brother Dzorig is a leading candidate of the opposition Mongolian Democratic Union.

"The Democratic Union was showing good results," she added.

"One of a score of foreign diplomats and observers who monitored the voting at 10 urban polling places and one in the countryside said they witnessed no irregularities, although some opposition candidates said they lacked resources to mount effective campaigns.

"Our initial impression is that the primary was very well organised and carried out fairly and honestly," the diplomat said.

Mongolia's five fledgling opposition parties were only legalised two months ago.

Strong aftershocks jolt Baguio

Cory refuses to suspend foreign debt payment, calls for more aid

MANILA, July 23. (AP): President Corazon Aquino today asked Congress for more money to rebuild after an earthquake that killed more than 1,000 people. But she rejected calls to finance the recovery by suspending foreign debt payments.

Strong aftershocks today jolted areas of Luzon island struck by the July 16 quake, which measured 7.7 on the Richter scale and was the strongest to hit the Philippines in 14 years.

One aftershock sent hundreds of people rushing into the streets of already devastated Baguio, 130 miles (210 kilometres) to the north.

Official figures put the death toll at 1,055, but the count was expected to rise because

rescuers are continuing to pull bodies from the rubble of collapsed buildings. Presidential adviser Jose de Jesus said 393 were killed in Baguio alone, although figures in Manila put the count there at 232.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, chairman of the National Disaster Co-ordinating Council, said more than 3,000 people were severely injured and nearly 90,000 were left homeless by the quake.

Aquino, in a "state of the nation" address marking the end of Congress' summer recess, asked for 10 billion pesos (\$800,000) "for the repair and reconstruction of permanent structures affected by the recent earthquake."

The House of Representatives unanimously approved the request and referred it to the Senate.

"I should like to thank all of our new friends throughout the world — governments, institutions as well as individuals — for the humanitarian assistance given to our people and the victims of the earthquake," Aquino said.

But she refused to endorse congressional proposals to suspend payments on the country's \$26-billion debt to free money for reconstruction.

"It is also my hope that Congress would share with me the concern that any move we take on the manner of debt repayment must never jeopardise in any way our painfully built good standing with our creditors," she said.

Pro-government commentators and lawmakers said they were surprised at the lackluster tone of the speech. Several said they expected a rousing "call to arms" in the wake of a major natural disaster.

In Baguio, the search for survivors shifted today to the grim task of recovering the dead. British and other foreign experts declared there were no signs of life in any of the nearly 30 buildings devastated by the tremor.

An aftershock that jolted Baguio at 9.45 am (0045 GMT) sent hundreds of nervous residents fleeing into the streets. Many Baguio residents have been sleeping outdoors since the quake because of the continuing aftershocks.

Seismologists have recorded 629 aftershocks since the quake, 55 of which could be felt.

In Manila, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon announced he was establishing a commission to consider criminal charges against owners and builders of structures that collapsed during the quake.

Yesterday, one of the cabinet members acknowledged that his construction firm built the Baguio Hyatt, which collapsed during the quake. But Fiorello Estuar, secretary of public works and highways, refused to comment on allegations by a prominent civil engineer that the Hyatt was structurally unsound.

"There are many factors to consider before you can pinpoint where the fault lies," Estuar said.

Last week, Octavio Kalalo, former president of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, contended he warned in 1985 that the Hyatt could not withstand a major quake, but his findings were ignored.

Relief supplies meant for victims of last week's devastating Philippine earthquake have been pilfered, a senior official said today.

De Jesus, blamed the losses on government laxity in handling aid donations.

Rebels free 15 soldiers

TANDAG, Philippines, July 23. (Reuters): Communist guerrillas freed 15 soldiers held captive for more than three months in the southern Philippines, witnesses said on Sunday.

The communist New People's Army (NPA) turned over their captives to civilian negotiators led by a priest in ceremonies which reporters witnessed in Tandag town, Surigao del Sur province, on the southern island of Mindanao.

A rebel commander who identified himself as "Ka (Comrade) Salern" told reporters the NPA freed the soldiers after a guerrilla court cleared them of responsibility for damaging rebel property during a government attack in April.

The 15 were captured by the rebels after the attack.

Elsewhere on Mindanao, government forces killed four rebel soldiers but lost two dead in a clash on Friday in Agusan del Sur province, 80 km (50 miles) west of Surigao del Sur. The Department of Social Welfare said on Sunday.

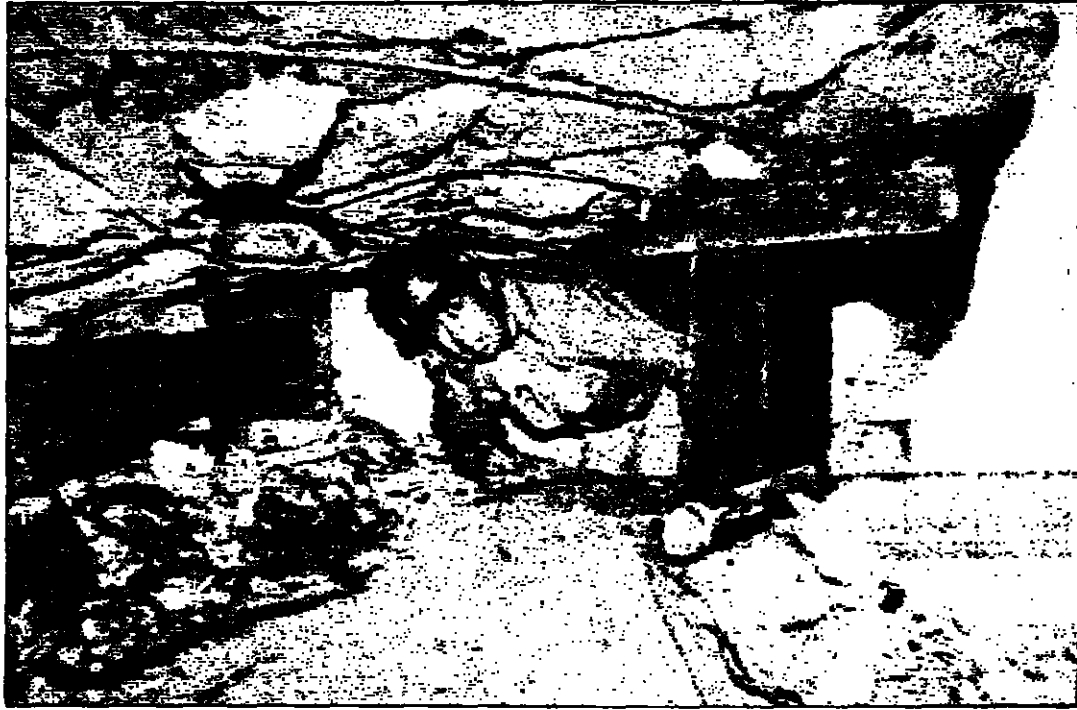
The rebel soldiers belonged to a group headed by dissident Colonel Alexander Noble, alleged to be a leader of last December's sixth and most serious army coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino.

About 3,000 villagers fled their homes and sought shelter in government school buildings to evade the fighting, social welfare workers in the area said.

■ A shootout between the National Bureau of Investigation operatives and Philippine narcotics agents on Saturday left two people dead in the second such gunbattle in two weeks.



A lone member of the International Rescue Corps sits passively on Sunday as rescuers abandoned hope of saving hundreds of people entombed in a quake-devastated Philippine mountain city of Baguio six days after the killer quake. The death toll could exceed more than 1000 lives. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Filipino miner creeps into a small passageway after the rescuers were able to bore a hole through the rubble. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asean reaffirms support

Continued backing for Khmer rebels

BANGKOK, July 23. (Reuters): The Association of South East Asian Nations still supports Cambodian guerrillas despite a decision by its US ally to end recognition of the Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition, Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila said today.

Siddhi, long involved in labyrinthine moves to end the 11-year conflict, told reporters Asean would issue a statement at its annual meeting of foreign ministers in Jakarta this week pledging continued backing for the guerrillas.

"There will be a joint statement from Asean on continuing support to Prince Norodom Sihanouk on the Cambodian problem and calling for a speeding up of a comprehensive solution," he said at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport before leaving for Jakarta.

Foreign ministers from Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines are meeting there.

The regional grouping in the early 1980s co-operated with China and the United States in forming an anti-Vietnamese coalition out of the ashes of exile groups and the Khmer Rouge, ousted from power by Vietnamese troops in 1978-9.

But non-communist groups in

the coalition and their backers face growing public condemnation for indirectly helping the Khmer Rouge, blamed for the deaths of one million Cambodians during its 1975-8 rule, which now poses a growing threat to the government.

Washington last week upset the stalemate between the two sides by announcing it would seek talks with Vietnam, which has claimed to have withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia, on banning the Khmer Rouge from returning to power.

Thailand, once Asean's most ardent supporter of the guerrillas, based on its eastern border, has under Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan switched to a more conciliatory role by hosting talks between the coalition and Phnom Penh.

But Siddhi, who has distanced himself from Thailand's controversial shift, said US efforts to isolate the Khmer Rouge would worsen the situation on the ground in Cambodia.

"The new stand of the United States pushed the Khmer Rouge away from peace talks and leaves them only one route — into the jungle," he said.

The growing problem of Vietnamese and, increasingly, Cambodians fleeing their countries in search of a better life will be

prominent on the Asean agenda, diplomats say.

Indonesia wants the international community to move more quickly to help solve a problem that this year has rapidly worsened.

Its own island sanctuary now has three times more refugees than it was designed to handle.

Malaysia, accused of pushing boatpeople back out to sea, wants Asean to push Vietnam to accept forced repatriation and get the United States to agree to take refugees who cannot be resettled elsewhere.

Economic co-operation will be another subject of discussion although in its 27 years of life Asean has seen relatively little growth in regional trade.

Earlier this year the Asian Development Bank warned the region that it had to be ready to meet fresh threats and challenges from the opening up of Eastern Europe and the planned end to internal trade barriers in the EC in 1992.

Proposals by Manila to form a common market have so far been received coolly by its partners.

Foreign ministers from Papua New Guinea, which shares a troubled border with Indonesia, and the Solomon Islands have been invited to the talks as observers.

HK woman recalls painful custom of 'foot-binding'

HONG KONG, July 23. (Reuters): Leung Suet-chun is confined to a wheelchair, her deformed feet propped up on supports in front of her.

When 93-year-old Leung was a girl it was too painful for her to walk and she was carried on the back of a maid. For most of her life she could only walk slowly and with difficulty.

Leung is one of Hong Kong's very few remaining "golden lotus" women, who used tight cloth bandages to compress their feet to the tiny size that was once considered both attractive and a sign of breeding.

"My mother told me to start binding my feet when I was nine years old," Leung, who

was born in the small town of Xinhui in China's southern Guangdong province, said through an interpreter.

"I was engaged when I was eight and my husband's family wanted me to have bound feet by the time I married," she said. "It was very painful and often I cried all night and could not sleep, but I could never leave the bandages off."

The exact origins of foot-binding are not known, but the customs may have started late in the Tang dynasty (618-907 AD) when maidens at a local ruler's court were told to bind their feet when dancing on a golden structure shaped like a lotus flower. Golden lotus became a euphemism for bound feet.

The practice was not widespread until after the fourteenth century during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

Wealthy families would make their young daughters, whose bones were still soft and pliable, bind their four small toes back and under the sole of their feet and compress the heel and front of the foot together.

The large toe was left extended to give the foot, clad in dainty and embroidered shoes that were part of the bound feet culture, a sharp, pointed appearance.

The ideal length for a golden lotus was three inches (eight cm), though few women could achieve that size.

Leung, whose feet are not unbound, could not remember how large her feet were when bound but said they were much smaller.

Women suffered excruciating pain and often complete immobility for the social status of bound feet, which, as they made it impossible for a woman to work, demonstrated her leisure and affluence.

"My mother said I would be taken for a servant unless I bound my feet," said Leung. "When my feet were bound I could not walk and was carried about by a maid on her back," she said. "I had nothing to do at home except sewing and embroidery."

The customs also has strong sexual overtones.

Women wore special scarlet shoes in bed at night as the contrast with their skin colour was said to heighten male desire.

"Prostitutes with bound feet — the smaller the better — could ask a higher price," said Elizabeth Sin, an historian at Hong Kong University.

The odour of the feet, which occasionally turned gangrenous, was also said to be erotic.

Leung said she washed her feet every second day and used a powder to absorb the perspiration.

At the turn of the century Western missionaries and liberal Chinese influenced by

Western ideas began to set up "natural foot societies" calling for an end to the custom. A series of government decrees, after the 1911 revolution that overthrew China's Manchu rulers, outlawed foot-binding and by the 1930s it had largely died out in China.

"The colonial government here in Hong Kong didn't legislate against it because they didn't need to — the social movement against it brought it to an end," said Maria Jaschok, a researcher of Chinese women's history.

Leung said her husband, whom she married when she was 15, insisted she take off her bindings.

طريق الحلال

Soviet elite's free ride ends

Communist Party members facing hard times

TVER, USSR, July 23. (AP): Their policies are attacked from left and right. They are losing some of their cars and country homes. And now they have to start paying their own telephone and electricity bills.

For communists in this ancient Russian city, these are not the best of times. And they may be a sign of things to come for other areas.

Just ask Sergei Goryachev, the acting city party chief of Tver, a city 170 kilometres (105 miles) northwest of Moscow that was renamed last week from Kalinin. The 38-year-old son of a serviceman admits that a vacation that gave him a nice tan also started him thinking about quitting.

"This troubled me especially during my

vacation, when I had more time to think. And now every party worker is thinking. Of course there is worrying, serious worrying," Goryachev said in his office in Tver.

With Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin staring from a portrait on a wall, Goryachev said his soul-searching brought him to a simple conclusion: "In this period, to leave would be pure betrayal."

Sparked by dissatisfaction with this month's 28th Communist Party congress, dozens of party leaders have come to the opposite conclusion, including maverick Boris N. Yeltsin, the president of the Russian republic. They have quit the party.

The party is under attack nationwide from the left for not giving up its exclusive cells in the KGB and army and police and not sharing its massive wealth — buildings

and printing presses — with fledgling competitors. The right is angry that the party is loosening its grip on Eastern European allies and is borrowing from capitalism in its economic reforms.

It is not known how many communists nationwide have turned in their cards to the 19 million-member party since the congress stood firm against these demands.

But in the Tver region, 3,000 of the 150,000 Communist Party members have left the party in the first half of this year.

Goryachev predicts more will quit because of unhappiness with what he calls incongruous decisions of the congress. The mood already is showing in his meetings with workers.

"They are cold in the very beginning

when you walk in. But then, people see that you are the same as they, have the same problems and that the problems concern me," he said.

Many complaints, he said, are about privileges accorded party officials. Goryachev and other officials say many summer cottages, cars and medical facilities reserved for the elite have been turned over to the government.

The older generation of party officials, even more accustomed to the good life, faces similar complaints.

"To hear out criticism is not a pleasant task," said Alexander Ilyenkov, Tver's 53-year-old regional party chief.

Ilyenkov, who talks quickly in a deep baritone and smokes a hard-to-find brand of cigarettes, says he answers frankly.

Vandals defacing Lenin's statues

MOSCOW, July 23. (AP): Vandals are defacing and toppling statues of Vladimir Lenin, and one city is even selling one of the monuments in unprecedented physical attacks on the Soviet Union's holiest icon.

Weekend reports in the state-run media said statues of the Soviet founder have been toppled in two dozen towns in the southern republic of Georgia, "barbarously disfigured" in Lithuania, and ordered dismantled and put up for sale in the western Ukraine city of Ternopol to the outrage of its local communists.

Under President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, Lenin and Marx have remained relatively sacred in the communist pantheon while other past leaders, such as Josef Stalin and Leonid I. Brezhnev, have been severely criticised.

In the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, police are guarding the Lenin statue in the city's Central Square around the clock to keep it from suffering the same fate as a bronze monument that was toppled near the Zemo-Avtchalskaya hydroelectric station, in another part of town, the newspaper Soviet Culture reported Saturday.

"He was lying looking at me with his frightening, empty eyes, the creator of my motherland, USSR — Vladimir Lenin," wrote correspondent S. Babayev. He added that the plant's labour committee decided to destroy the statue.

In recent weeks, monuments to the Soviet founder were destroyed in the Georgian towns of Kozhori, Kutaisi, Batumi and about two dozen others. Attempts were made to topple them in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku and the Armenian capital of Yerevan, Soviet Culture reported.

In the small town of Varniai in northwestern Lithuania, meanwhile, a statue of Lenin in the Central Square was "barbarously disfigured" on Saturday, the 50th anniversary of the declaration of Soviet power in the Baltics, the Tass news agency reported.

Tass did not further describe what was done to the Lenin statue, except to call it a "crude provocation."

Some critics of Lenin have become bolder — one suggested this year that his body be removed from the mausoleum in Red Square and buried — but for many he remains a figure of reverence and grandfatherly affection. Official criticism has been non-existent in comparison to the scorn heaped on Brezhnev and Stalin.

One official exception has been at the Moscow City Council, where radical reformers who won election earlier this year voted to remove a bust of Lenin from their chambers.

Soviet food supply slack

MOSCOW, July 23. (Reuters): The Soviet Union, plagued by stagnant food production and severe shortages of hard currency, faces bread shortages and increased social tensions, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has warned.

Ryzhkov told the new presidential council and republican leaders that real food production — up about one per cent — had just barely kept pace with population growth.

Government purchases of grain from collective and state farms were lagging behind 1989 and there was not enough currency to even approach last year's purchase of 44 million tonnes on the foreign market.

"Unless we fundamentally change the situation, then the country is not in any condition — I can say categorically — to purchase that much grain," Ryzhkov said in a speech on Friday. His remarks were carried fully by Izvestia newspaper on Sunday.

Coalition rescued

German unity date put off

EAST BERLIN, July 23. (AP): Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has averted the collapse of his broad coalition after the ruling parties agreed to put off a decision on the precise date of German unification.

Both coalition partners had threatened to pull out of the coalition over the issue, but reached a compromise on Sunday.

The Social Democrats — East Germany's second-largest party — and the smaller liberal coalition have both demanded that unity occur a day before elections set Dec 2. In that way, all of Germany, not two separate nations, would vote at once.

De Maiziere's Christian Democrats have said unity before the vote

would place East Germans under a government they did not elect — the West German government — if only for a day.

Sunday, the coalition partners agreed to have the two German governments work together to find an agreeable solution.

The agreement foresees the two Germanys negotiating a treaty on making preparations for the joint German elections.

Also Sunday, parliament voted to reconstitute the country's five states that had been dissolved under communist rule 38 years ago. The move was intended to facilitate East Germany's merger with the West under terms of Bonn's constitution.



Bolshoi ballet

Natalia Bestemianova of the Soviet Union (top) playing Mararet in "Faust" with the Bolshoi ice ballet in Istanbul, is raised on the shoulders of Soviet dancers Bestemianova was 1988 World and Olympic ice skating champion. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets foil hijack attempt: 2 arrested

Flight took off from Latvia

MOSCOW, July 23. (UPI): Two men tried to hijack an Aeroflot jetliner with 74 passengers to Sweden today, but its crew landed the plane in northern Russia and foiled the latest in a rash of air piracy bids from the Soviet Union, Tass said.

The official Soviet news agency said the hijacking attempt occurred on a flight bound from the Latvian capital of Riga to the port of Murmansk on the Barents sea.

"Two young men staged an abortive attempt to hijack another Soviet airliner to Sweden today," Tass said.

Deputy Civil Aviation Minister Mikhail Timofeev said the two men threatened to blow up the plane if it did not fly to Stockholm. But the crew consulted with ground security and landed instead in Petrozavodsk, the regional capital of the Karelia region about halfway between Riga and Murmansk, he said.

The two hijackers, a 22-year-old student identified only by his last name of Kovalenko and a 27-

year-old bricklayer identified only as Kuznetsov, were arrested when the aircraft landed in Petrozavodsk, Tass said. It did not say whether they had the means to blow up the plane.

At least six Soviet domestic flights have been hijacked to Sweden, Finland or Turkey in the past six weeks, and a spate of other attempts in the same period have failed.

Sweden honoured a Soviet request last week and extradited Dimitri Semynov, a 17-year-old accused of carrying out the June 9 hijacking that started the recent wave of air piracy.

Semynov was the first person expelled from Sweden to the Soviet Union in 44 years. Soviets were previously granted political asylum and tried in Sweden, but Swedish authorities said they broke with past policy in the hope that the extradition would discourage further hijackings.

Two other accused Soviet hijackers in Sweden are awaiting the government's decision, as are two accused air pirates in custody in Finland.

Bush helps christen new carrier

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia, July 23. (UPI): President George Bush helped christen the aircraft carrier George Washington, quoting the mighty vessel's namesake as saying, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace."

Standing on a freshly painted barge beneath the carrier's steel grey hull, the president told a flag-waving crowd of several thousand, "American power is still the world's paramount force for freedom."

The ceremony at the Newport News Shipbuilding Co. coincided with the administration's review of a navy recommendation to reduce the number of deployable carriers from 14 to 12, and as Bush is urging Congress not to let the end of the cold war lead to a "fire sale" of military power.

Bush was joined at the Star-spangled christening by navy brass, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, his daughter, Doro Leblond, and the First Lady, Barbara, who performed the christening ritual.

With a mighty swing, she smashed a bottle of champagne across the George Washington's bow, disregarding the portion that sprayed her white dress.

The president told the crowd, "today, the carrier remains an indispensable element in the American arsenal — projecting power, preserving the peace."

Cossiga calls for probe

CIA aided terrorism alleged

ROME, July 23. (AP): President Francesco Cossiga has called for an investigation of a report that the CIA encouraged terrorism in Italy in the 1970s, the president's office said Sunday.

The report on state-owned Rai television alleged that the US intelligence agency paid Licio Gelli, grandmaster of the Secret Propaganda Due (P-2) Masonic lodge, to foment terrorist activities.

The P-2 had been accused of seeking to install a right-wing dictatorship in Italy during the 1970s with the help of secret service officials. Italy was wracked by left- and right-wing terrorism during that period.

Gelli has denied the television report and announced plans to sue the network for libel.

In his July 3 letter to Premier Giulio Andreotti, Cossiga said that "The information broadcast in these transmissions requires, in my opinion, a serious evaluation on the part of the Italian government."

He said that if the government felt the charges were well-founded, the case should be turned over to the courts and a parliamentary commission on terrorism. If the information was false or reckless, he said, the Rai should be taken to court.

The president's office released the letter after the newsweekly Panorama reported its existence.

The Rai report was based mainly on interviews with two men who claimed to have worked for the CIA. One was identified as Dick Brenneke. The other wore a hood during the interview, saying he wanted to protect his identity.

Cossiga also asked for an investigation into charges in the Rai report that the CIA and the P-2 were involved in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986. The killing is still unsolved.

There was no immediate word on whether Andreotti had ordered an investigation.



Dec 21 commemorated

About 1,000 Romanians commemorate the dead of the bloody revolution of December 21, praying and laying white flowers at one of the makeshift shrines in Bucharest (Reuters wirephoto)

Romania trial put off again

3,000 students rally

BUCHAREST, Romania, July 23. (AP): The trial of 24 top associates of ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was adjourned today for two weeks to allow for a medical examination of the defendants.

The 24 former members of the Communist Party politburo are accused of having backed Ceausescu's orders to shoot at peaceful demonstrators in the revolution that toppled the leader last Dec 22.

The defendants face maximum sentences of life in prison on charges of complicity to genocide.

The defendants pleaded innocent to the charges.

The trial, which opened Saturday, was quickly adjourned after the defence requested that the president of the five-man military tribunal be replaced.

The defence argued he was potentially biased because he was one of the five judges who conducted the secret trial against Ceausescu and his wife Elena.

They were executed Dec 25 after being found guilty of genocide and ruining the national economy. The death penalty was subsequently outlawed.

Ion Nistor was replaced as chief judge by Capt. Bogdan Graur and the entire five-man tribunal was replaced.

Graur agreed to the defence request for medical examinations for most of the defendants, who also complained of bad prison conditions.

Graur said the medical examinations were allowed "to establish whether the defendants can or cannot support jail." Trial was adjourned until Aug 8.

More than 3,000 Romanian students and supporters rallied yesterday to demand the release of a student leader and opposition activists detained after unrest last month.

Students, academics and government opponents, carrying flowers and banners, gathered in a main square to call for the release of Marian Munteanu.

Walesa wins battle with Solidarity rival

Federation plan rejected

WARSAW, July 23. (AP): Lech Walesa has won a victory over supporters of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki in their battle for the allegiance of grassroots Solidarity groups.

In recent weeks, the Solidarity movement has become split into two rival camps — one supporting Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, and the other, Mazowiecki, the head of the government.

The two camps have been battling for control of local Solidarity citizens committees, which have dominated Polish politics since the communists lost power last year.

Yesterday, delegates representing local citizens committees overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to form a centralised federation.

Supporters of Mazowiecki had wanted the local committees to create a national federation to support his government, especially now that it is carrying out painful economic reforms.

During yesterday's six-hour meeting, an overwhelming majority of the 136 delegates decided instead to hold occasional national conferences without creating a standing organisation.

Walesa, in a letter read at the opening of meeting, made clear that he felt

victory was his.

"A few weeks ago there was an attempt made to centralise the whole citizens movement. It is good that you did not agree to it. One must not forcibly create any kind of unclear unity," Walesa said.

Walesa said he could not attend the meeting because he had broken his arm while on vacation and his doctor advised him not to travel. Mazowiecki said he couldn't attend because he had influenza.

The local citizens committees sprang up to wage last year's successful parliamentary campaign that opened the way to a Solidarity-led government in August.

Walesa's critics accused him of acting in an autocratic manner and trying to make the committees into tools for his widely expected campaign for president of Poland, a post now held by former communist leader Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The anti-Walesa group had hoped to persuade local committees to form a national federation to support Mazowiecki.

In his letter, Walesa urged the local committees to get ready to choose their own candidates for upcoming free parliamentary elections, which are expected to be held by early spring.

150 ANC militant members arrested

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, July 23. (AP): The African National Congress acknowledged today that its guerrillas have been infiltrating South Africa and many have been arrested, but it denied reports of a secret insurrection plot.

An ANC official said police were staging a nation-wide police sweep on ANC militants and Communist Party members who had recently returned from exile or who had infiltrated the country secretly.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a man claiming to be a sub-lieutenant in the ANC's military wing reportedly entered the US consulate in Durban today seeking asylum because of the police raids.

The ANC source said Dhekuwusa Jabulani Ximbe, 38, had been in hiding since police raided his home a week ago and confiscated a cache of hand grenades and limpet mines.

ANC members are returning to South Africa under initiatives meant to open talks on ending apartheid, the country's system of racial segregation.

Armed

Walter Sisulu, internal ANC leader, was quoted in the Daily Mail newspaper as saying his organisation believed as many as 150 of its members have been arrested in recent weeks. He said he assumed they had been engaged in the "normal activities" of the organisation, and he noted the ANC's "armed struggle" had not been suspended.

But Sisulu denied reports in several Sunday newspapers that quoted government sources as saying a secret unit of ANC guerrillas, directed by the South African Communist Party, was planning an armed insurrection.

The newspaper reports said this renegade group opposed the ANC's policy of negotiating with the government. The reports said the ANC military wing's command did not know of the plot.

The Star, an anti-government Johannesburg paper, yesterday quoted government sources as saying the State Security Council would probably discuss the alleged plot at a meeting today.

The ANC National Executive Committee also was meeting today and tomorrow in preparation for its next round of talks with the government on Aug 6.

Both sides have said the latest problems will not interfere with the talks, which are expected to address obstacles to a ceasefire, such as release of prisoners convicted of politically-motivated crimes and an amnesty for returning exiles.

The government wants the ANC formally end its ineffective 29-year-old armed struggle and has asked Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders to stop "war talk."

But the ANC has said it will not suspend the military wing's activities until the government has made irreversible changes to end apartheid and end racial power.

Sisulu said he expected detentions of ANC members to continue as long as the organisation and government had not arranged a ceasefire. But he added, "one thing we are not going to do is to stop the process of negotiations."

Explosion

A massive explosion damaged the offices of the ruling National Party in Bloemfontein before dawn yesterday, police said.

No one claimed responsibility, but the commercial explosives used in the blast had been a trademark of recent attack by white extremists.

Workers present

Mandela gets red Mercedes

MDANTSANE, South Africa, July 23. (AP): Nelson Mandela received a red Mercedes-Benz car yesterday, built specially for him by automakers who hailed him as leader of the disenfranchised black majority.

More than 50,000 blacks attended a rally at a sports stadium in Mdantsane, a township on the southern coast, where Mandela received the keys to the 500 SE Mercedes-Benz, valued at more than 200,000 rand (\$80,000).

Mandela said the fire-engine red car would "forever remind us of the blood of the workers and people of our country have shed in the liberation struggle."

"The red colour of this car will constitute a daily challenge to us to stop the violence," Mandela said.

Employees at the Mercedes-Benz plant in neighbouring East London worked overtime without pay to build the car for Mandela. The German-owned company agreed to donate the vehicle to Mandela, leader of the African National Congress.

The National Union of Metalworkers presented the car as "a small sign of our gratitude to Mr Mandela." The union supports the ANC, the country's largest black opposition movement.

Kenyan ministers may be implicated in Ouko death: newspaper

LONDON, July 23. (UPI): Cabinet colleagues of murdered Kenyan Foreign Minister Robert Ouko may be implicated in his death, a published report said Sunday.

Britain's Sunday Correspondent newspaper said a highly sensitive report being compiled by Scotland Yard detectives will show there is increasing evidence suggesting that Ouko may have been killed for insisting on an investigation into allegations of corruption against his cabinet colleagues.

The newspaper, quoting unnamed senior diplomatic sources, said details of the evidence that could implicate Ouko's cabinet colleagues in his grisly death will be included in the Scotland Yard

report, which is expected to be completed at the end of the month.

The report may not name names, it said, but will establish Ouko's call for a corruption probe as a motive for his killing.

Ouko's burned and decomposed body was found in western Kenya on Feb 16 this year, but three days after he had mysteriously disappeared. The popular 57-year-old minister had been shot through the head and his body set on fire. His clothes, his personal 38 pistol and a Somali sword were found nearby, according to reports at the time.

The death caused rumours, demonstrations and eventually riots amid accusations of government

involvement in Ouko's killing. Students marched to shout "cover-up" when suicide was suggested, local newspapers recalled other unsolved murders of political figures, and riot police dispersed crowds after violence broke out at Ouko's memorial service and funeral.

The Kenyan government promptly called in British detectives, led by superintendent Graham Troon, who presented an interim report last month after three months of detective work in and around Ouko's parliamentary constituency Kisumu, 180 miles (290 km) west of Nairobi, and in the capital itself.

World News Roundup

America

Rapists tested for Aids: Four defendants in the rape and beating of a 79-year-old woman will be tested for Aids in what may be the first use of a new Florida law that allows a rape victim to demand tests of the accused.

"This is certainly the first case I've heard," said Stephen Kindland of the state department of health and rehabilitative services' Aids prevention headquarters.

Circuit Judge Burton C. Easton agreed Friday to allow the tests under the law that took effect July 1.

The test results will not be admissible as evidence if the case comes to trial.

Bids to free mercy killer: The prosecutor who five years ago helped convict 76-year-old Roswell Gilbert of murder for slaying of his elderly, ailing wife, now want to help free him.

Kelly Hancock, who prosecuted Gilbert, says he still believes Gilbert was wrong to end his wife's suffering by killing her. But he also does not believe Gilbert, now 81, should have to serve out his life sentence.

Hancock convinced a jury five years ago that Gilbert was guilty of first-degree murder. As a result the judge had only two options in sentencing. Execution by electric chair, or life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years (AP).

Pot stimulates brain: American researchers say they have discovered receptors in the brain that are stimulated by marijuana, suggesting that there is a previously unknown chemical pathway in the body using a natural form of the drug.

The work suggests that researchers might eventually be able to develop drugs that do not cause intoxication but have some of the medicinal properties of marijuana, including pain relief, anti-asthmatic action, anti-nausea action and anti-convulsive action. Researchers might also be able to design entirely new drugs aimed at these receptors that are more effective pain killers. (Kuna)

Magnetic trains under study: As countries like France and Japan are rushing to produce the high-speed passenger trains that ride on magnetic cushions, Americans appear divided about its development here in the US amid a new federal study saying it is not economically feasible.

The study by the Federal Railroad Administration on the high-speed trains predicts only limited use of it in the US in the next 10 or 20 years.

The magnetic levitation trains, which would travel about 300 miles an hour while suspended above a guideway by powerful magnetic fields, are under development in several countries and have been proposed as an alternative to air travel between some cities in the United States. (Kuna)

Kennedy mark: A week after a public outpouring, the matriculation of one of America's most durable political dynasties, Rose Kennedy, officially turned 100 Sunday and was honoured at a private gathering.

In contrast to the gala events of last week — when the occasion was used to highlight progress in the area of aid to the mentally handicapped — Sunday's gathering was closed to the media.

Last weekend, Kennedy family members and 370 guests gathered at the family compound to hear speeches, eat birthday cake, see a film on Mrs Kennedy's life and serenade her with her favourite Irish songs. (AP)

Rose Kennedy Centre: A social services centre named for Rose Kennedy has been dedicated as part of the family's observance of her matriculation's 100th birthday.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr, son of the late US senator and host of the event, said the centre was inspired by his grandmother's "long-lasting commitment to the family and the values that are derived from a caring and nurturing environment."

The centre will serve elderly women and homeless young mothers when it opens in 1991. It is in the Bedford-Stuyvesant restoration area, a project backed by the late senator in the poor, mostly black neighbourhood (AP)

Birthday marked: A who's who of classical musicians, including a trio of the late Misia Rostropovich, threw a 70th birthday party on Sunday for Isaac Stern, as some 30,000 people turned out to pay tribute to one of the world's most famous violinists.

Flutist Jean-Pierre Rampel and violinist Jaime Laredo were among those who performed with the San Francisco Symphony in a free concert in the city where Stern began his career 55 years ago.

Rostropovich stole the show, dancing onto the stage wearing the heavy make-up of a ballerina, a wig and white tutu. The conductor of the Washington Symphony then played cello for a performance of Camille Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals." (Reuters)

Patriarch stirs crowd: Patriarch Dimitrios I delivered the divine Liturgy Sunday morning in Grant Park to a crowd of thousands who travelled from as far away as Florida to see him, said Jim Peponis, who co-chairs the visit committee.

Dimitrios, the spiritual leader of 250 million Orthodox Christians, delivered the Liturgy to nearly 12,000 people a half-hour late because of a steady downpour of rain. (UPI)



Wreckage

Rescue workers try to free a victim (not pictured) trapped inside the wreckage of a passenger train derailed near Zaragoza, Spain, on July 22 as a result of intense heat which caused the track to bend out of shape causing the train to derail. (Reuters wirephoto)



High fashion

A Philippe Venet model wears a cobalt-blue gold brocade suede coat with fur-lined hood and cuffs during an Autumn-Winter 1990-91 high fashion preview on July 20. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Not as wild as before' Lacroix kicks off high fashion shows

PARIS, July 23. (Reuters) Flamboyant designer Christian Lacroix kicked off five days of French autumn and winter high fashion showing a shade more restrained than usual but still managed to throw blood-red mink over black velvet in a presentation inspired by the Orient, New York and Spain.

At 39 the youngest of the Paris couturiers, he scored a new triumph at a showing yesterday at a Paris hotel where eager paparazzi mobbed US socialite Ivana Trump, one of the few women able to afford the individually-tailored lines.

"It was high elegance," said former Chanel top model Ines de la Fressange.

"He is eccentric but marvellous. Even for a professional, his shows are an experience."

Lacroix's woman was softly moulded and often chaste but would never go unnoticed. Throwing blood-red silk over black velvet or combining fuchsia with red and tans with tweeds, Lacroix indulged in the eye-catching contrasts that have catapulted him to the top of the thriving fashion trade.

He recklessly juxtaposed glowing velvets with pastel chiffons, heavy brocades with fine chiffon and threw his trademark diamond buttons on backs, fronts, sleeves or hips.

But the fashion circus agreed that the southern French designer whose 1987-founded house has yet to show a profit, was a shade more restrained than in the past.

"He is still one of the great artists," one journalist said. "But not quite as wild as in the past."

Largely inspired by the Orient and 18th century French designs, Lacroix favoured short skirts or tightly tapered trousers but needed to show little flesh to seduce.

Undisclosed ailment
Quayle wife operated on

WASHINGTON, July 23. (Reuters) Marilyn Quayle, wife of Vice-President Dan Quayle, underwent surgery on Saturday morning for an undisclosed ailment, but is expected to make a complete recovery.

Quayle spokesman David Beckwith said Beckwith would not disclose the reason for the surgery or where it took place, but said the disease was diagnosed at its earliest stage though a Pap test — a common procedure for detecting cervical cancer or pre-cancerous conditions.

"Mrs Quayle will be able to resume her full schedule in four to six weeks. A full and total recovery is expected," Beckwith said.

The vice-president and Mrs Quayle urge all women to have yearly Pap tests. With early diagnosis, complete cure and total recovery are possible. The Quayle family is thankful that this test was able to detect her disease at its earliest stages," he said.

The Pap test is named for George Papanicolaou, the doctor who invented it. The procedure is used to study cells in the cervix and can detect cancerous cells or changes that may be the first signs of cancer.

Physicians recommend that women over 18 have annual Pap tests.

Mrs Quayle, 40, whose mother died of breast cancer, has emerged as an effective spokeswoman promoting the cause of breast cancer awareness and research.

Europe
France swelters: Hundreds of people were taken to hospitals over the weekend as heat records fell throughout France, officials said on Sunday.

Southwestern areas sweltered on Saturday as temperatures approached 40 degrees centigrade (104 Fahrenheit), they said.

The highest temperature recorded — and the highest figure since records began to be kept this century — was 39.2 C (102.5 F) at Nérac, near Toulouse.

The weather bureau said temperatures were normal only on the Mediterranean coastline. Elsewhere they were about 10 C (50 F) higher than average for the season.

Officials said Sunday temperatures appeared to be soaring everywhere and no relief was in sight.

Tolstoy abandons appeal: Count Nikolai Tolstoy says he will abandon his appeal against a libel award because he cannot afford to post a deposit required by the Court of Appeal.

Tolstoy had sought to overturn the record award of \$2.7 million to Lord Aldington, whom Tolstoy had accused of war crimes during World War II.

Three judges of the Court of Appeal ruled last week that Tolstoy's appeal had little chance of success, and that if he wished to proceed he must deposit \$226,000 within 14 days as security for Aldington's costs.

"I cannot possibly raise that kind of money within 14 days so this is the end of the legal road," said Tolstoy, author of the book "Victims of Yalta" and a descendant of the Russian author Leo Tolstoy.

Star ferry for sale: The Danish-owned Scandinavian Star ferry, on which 158 passengers and crew died in a sea blaze in April, is for sale.

Managing director Ole Hansen of Copenhagen-based VR Shipping, told Reuters on Monday that the 10,315-tonne vessel was available "for any sum in excess of 10 million dollars."

"We will consider all double-figure dollar offers for the vessel," Hansen said.

The fire-ravaged vessel, which experts say can be renovated and sail again, has been docked in Copenhagen harbour since April.

QE2's fastest Atlantic crossing: The liner Queen Elizabeth 2 recorded its best time for an Atlantic crossing on Sunday when it docked at Southampton, England, four days, six hours and 57 minutes after leaving New York, said Capt Robert Woodall.

He said the liner's previous best time was 99 minutes slower.

Woodall said his ship travelled at an average 30 knots (34.5 mph or 55 kmph) and it was the fastest east-bound crossing the liner had made, although the crew had not set out to break any records.

The liner United States was faster on its maiden voyage from New York in 1952 when it averaged 35.39 knots (40.69 mph or 65.95 kmph) and crossed in three days, 10 hours and 40 minutes.

Labour blames Thatcher: Britain's main opposition Labour Party has accused British Premier Margaret Thatcher of being responsible for forcing families into poverty, debt and stress, it was reported in London on Sunday.

The party's spokeswoman, Jo Richardson, said "You cannot walk all over the family for 10 years and hope to put it right in one speech. We need action, not empty words."

In a speech delivered near London and made public this morning, Richardson criticised the Thatcher government for imposing higher taxes that hit women particularly hard and had placed a huge burden on poor families.

Scots anti-monarchist: The Scots have a deep anti-monarchist strain, according to a London newspaper opinion poll, published Sunday.

A total of 75 per cent favour its abolition. The poll, by telephone international media for Scotland on Sunday newspapers, questioned more than 2,300 people.

The result was 1,741 for scrapping the monarchy, 583 against.

Jet drops fuel tanks: A French air force Mirage fighter aircraft lost two fuel tanks over a French village but caused more fright than harm, a defence ministry spokesman said.

The tanks, each carrying 10,000 litres (2,200 gallons) of kerosene, hit the sleepy southwestern village of Berdoues on Friday, narrowly missing homes but damaging wheatfields and alarming residents.

Maltese supermarket collapses: A platform bearing canned food, detergent and bottles collapsed on shoppers at a supermarket on Saturday, killing two people and injuring 17 others, police in Valletta, Malta, said.

Witnesses said some shoppers were knocked down and buried by the falling goods.

State radio said the two dead, a man and woman, were trapped under rubble for more than three hours before police discovered their bodies. A hospital spokesman said none of the injured was in serious condition.

No smoke, no work: "Nothing to smoke — no work," people across the Soviet Union have decided.

Millions of smokers are grumbling as tobacco joins a long list of consumer goods in short supply, ranging from socks to shampoo.

Soviet press reports said workers, demanding something to smoke, have gone on strike or threatened stoppages in various regions of the country, from the Urals to southern Russia. The reports did not indicate the scale of the strikes.

Bologna memorial 'offensive': The son of World War Two fascist leader Benito Mussolini wants the word "fascist" erased from a memorial to victims of Italy's worst postwar terrorist outrage as it offends his father's memory.

Judicial sources said Vittorio Mussolini based his request on the shock acquittal of neo-fascists jailed for a 1980 bomb blast at Bologna railway station which killed 85 people.



Among the ruins

Singer, composer Roger Waters plays his bass among bricks after the wall collapsed at the end of the rock shows rehearsal 'The Wall' July 20. 150,000 visitors are expected to attend the concert. (Reuters wirephoto)



Love mismatch

What do you get when you cross a Shetland pony with a donkey? A Shonky pictured here on July 19 on the property of thoroughbred breeder Ron Wainwright, who concedes that the Shonky was the result of a love mismatch between Des the donkey and Sheba the Shetland pony. (Reuters wirephoto)

Physician, family set off from HK

Briton to retrace Marco Polo voyage

HONG KONG, July 23. (AP) A British physician left Hong Kong for Shanghai yesterday in a replica of a 13th century Chinese junk to retrace a historic odyssey taken by Venetian adventurer Marco Polo on his return home from China.

Dr Wayne Moran, 38, who lives in Cardiff, Wales, plans to return to Hong Kong in September after visits to several Chinese ports before leaving for Malaysia, Turkey and Greece on a voyage that will end in Italy.

Moran, accompanied by his wife, three children and a crew of 13, said he would decide after returning to Hong Kong on when he would begin the final leg of his voyage.

The 23-metre (76-foot) junk, decorated with intricate Chinese carvings, took six years to build and cost roughly \$5 million Hong Kong dollars (\$641,000 US).

It weighs 75 tonnes and has modern communication equipment. It has been named

Cocachin, after the Mongol Princess Marco Polo escorted to Iran, then known as Persia, for her wedding.

Moran designed the junk from information culled from ancient engravings and descriptions fed into a computer.

He said junks built now are mainly coastal vessels and differ greatly from 13th century Chinese ocean-going ships used by Kublai Khan, in whose court Marco Polo served in various posts for about 17 years.

Moran said the Chinese "were once the emperors of the sea ... (and) this voyage is setting out to prove it."

He said he would try to better pinpoint places vaguely described by Marco Polo to piece together the jigsaw puzzle of his sea route.

Moran said he also plans to test "replicas of old Chinese navigational instruments and verify the utility of a 16th century navigational chart that gives the duration of each leg of the journey."

Asia
No quick handover: By refusing to release opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi a year after her historic arrest, Burma's military rulers have indicated they will not bow to public pressure for a quick handover of power.

Diplomats said on Sunday the army, which has ruled the country for the last 22 months, had clearly decided to extend her detention for fear she would galvanise her party into demanding the power it was in elections in May.

There's no doubt she remains inside because she is political anathema to the army and will stay there until they feel the situation has stabilised," one said. (Reuters)

US experts to probe: In a breakthrough in the long campaign to account for the 2,302 American servicemen still missing from the Vietnam war, a group of US experts for the first time will visit Cambodia this week to search for the remains of as many as 82 military personnel.

"This is big breakthrough," said Mary Carroll of the National League of Families of POWs/MIAs in South East Asia. (UPI)

Commonwealth observers: The opposition on Sunday urged Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad to stick to his plan to invite Britain's Commonwealth of nations to send observers for upcoming national elections.

The Democratic Action Party's deputy secretary general, Lee Lam Thye, a Member of Parliament, said in a statement the party wants the observers to come to Malaysia to prove to the world that elections for the national parliament and 12 state legislative assemblies are fair.

Mahatir said Saturday the government would review its earlier decision to invite the observers. He said he will bring up the matter at the next cabinet meeting on Wednesday, the national news agency Bernama reported. (AP)

Emphasise rights issues: China has taken positive steps to improve its human rights record but needs to do more, a high-ranking British official said Sunday before departing for Beijing.

Foreign Office Minister Francis Maude is the first British minister to visit China since a ban was imposed on high-level exchanges after last year's massacre.

The ban is still in place, Maude said, but the European Community had granted exemptions to Britain because of its links with Hong Kong which reverts to China in 1997, and to Portugal, because of its links with Macao. (AP)

Nepal hunger strike: People injured during the February-April democracy movement continued a week-long hunger strike as an American expert on Nepal said Sunday that a return to absolute monarchy was unlikely.

The injured are continuing their hunger strike despite assurances by Health Minister Dr Mathura Shrestha that "their demands will be met." They are demanding action against those responsible for killings as well as rehabilitation of the injured and proper medical treatment either at home or abroad.

Shrestha said a panel of experts investigating the injured will submit its report to the government Monday to decide if any need foreign treatment. (UPI)

Farmer gets raw deal: A Vietnamese man fled to southern China disguised as a woman and was later sold in marriage by a crafty matchmaker to an unwitting farmer, according to a local newspaper reaching Beijing on Sunday.

After several failures in courtship, the farmer was introduced to a potential spouse by the matchmaker for 1,800 yuan (\$380) a large sum in China, the official Nanfang Daily said.

Suspicious villagers denounced the "bride" as an illegal refugee from Vietnam. The bridegroom told police and the matchmaker was caught, the daily said, without revealing the refugee's fate or his marital motives. (Reuters)

Taiwan rejects panda offer: Taipei has rejected Beijing's offer of two pandas because local zoologists do not have the know-how to raise the animals, the Council of Agriculture said on Monday.

China on Sunday renewed its "panda diplomacy" toward Taiwan with an offer of Lingling and Lele.

"If we do accept the animals, the main reason would be to keep pandas from becoming extinct, and not to exhibit them to the public," said Tang Shiao-yu, senior council specialist. (Reuters)

Dysentery epidemic kills 200: More than 200 people have died in a dysentery epidemic that has hit Nepal over the past few weeks, the official Rising Nepal newspaper said on Monday.

It said 211 people had died and more than 4,000 dysentery cases had been reported in 18 of the remote Himalayan kingdom's 75 districts, including Kathmandu.

The Hotel Association of Nepal has appealed to the government to tackle the outbreak "on a war-footing" to prevent damage to tourism, the country's main foreign currency earner. (Reuters)



Asylum

Alfredo Miguel Oquendo, a Cuban nuclear physicist with his wife Paulona, and their son Estevan, 4, leave the immigration office in Madrid on July 20 where they presented requests for political asylum. The Oquendo family arrived in Madrid on a stopover on a return trip from Moscow to Havana. (Reuters wirephoto)

Latin America
Cuba carnival: Cuba's annual Revolution Carnival began on Saturday night with a ceremonial cannon shot that sent thousands of Havana residents into the city's streets for a week of music, dance and fun.

With their hips swinging to a samba beat and their eyes irresistibly drawn to lavish carnival floats carrying scantily-clad girls, the happy crowds thronged Havana's Malecon seafont and the Old Town.

But amid the sea of revellers downtown, yellow fluorescent crash barriers manned by dozens of grim-faced Cuban police marked out a circle of tension that jarred with the surrounding music and laughter.

The barriers both protected and isolated

Spain's embassy in Cuba, the focal point of a tense week-old diplomatic stand-off over Cuban asylum seekers there that has brought relations between Madrid and Havana to one of their lowest points ever. (Reuters)

Salvador talks stall: Salvadoran government and rebel leaders remained stalled over the issue of military reform as they pressed to enter their fourth day of peace negotiations on Monday.

Clergymen in Costa Rica, where the talks are being held, and in El Salvador used Sunday sermons to plead with both sides for a breakthrough in the talks.

However, UN peace talks negotiator Alvaro Desoto said progress toward a cease-fire in El Salvador's decade-long civil war remained elusive.

Listen to the clamour of the people who demand peace. Give peace back to these long suffering Salvadorans," Roman Catholic Archbishop Roman Arrieta said during the Homily at his Sunday service, which leaders of both sides attended. (AP)

Camarena jury deliberates: The jury in the Enrique Camarena trial begins a second week of deliberations Monday on the fate of a Honduran drug kingpin, a prominent Mexican businessman and two others charged in torture-murder of the US drug agent.

In several notes to US District Judge Edward Rafeedie, the jury last week sought clarification on conspiracy charges against three of the defendants and asked the judge to re-create in the courtroom the scene on the day when a key prosecution witness was unable to identify a fourth defendant.

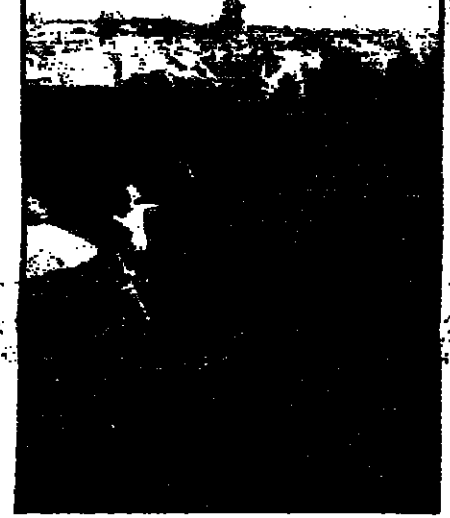
Rafeedie denied the request for the re-creation, saying it was "impractical."

The judge — who had told the jury at the beginning of the two-month trial that the case would be "fairly non-rigorous" — also dismissed jurors an hour early on their fourth day of discussions after receiving a note saying the panel was "having problems" and wanted to go home. (UPI)

4 hikers killed: Four hikers commissioned by the Guatemalan government to film an active volcano were found dead on Saturday, washed up on a riverbank, rescue officials said.

The victims were last seen on Thursday setting out to climb the Santiaguito Volcano, about 200 kms (125 miles) west of Guatemala City. Gases and ashes flooded the mountain peak in an explosion on Friday.

"The explosion is that they were a high-risk zone, and that they died from asphyxiation," government seismologist Otomiel Matias said.



Annual trim

Forestry workers start work on the annual trim of the world's tallest hedge in Cirencester, England, on July 21. The hedge was planted in 1720 and runs for 170 yards (170 metres), reaches 36 ft (12 m) and is 3.5 m at its base. The trim will take 8 to 9 days. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stanley Shapiro: Oscar-winning screenwriter Stanley Shapiro, whose string of romantic comedies included "Pillow Talk," starring Doris Day and Rock Hudson, has died of leukemia at age 65.

Shapiro died Saturday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said Dr Robert Miller, a longtime friend.

The New York City native began his writing career in radio and television. He switched to movies, and turned out a string of hits in the 1950s and '60s.

His flair for light, romantic comedy provided popular starring vehicles for such actors as Cary Grant, David Niven, Marlon Brando, Charles Boyer and Dean Martin. (AP)

Sergei Paradjanov: Internationally-acclaimed Armenian film director Sergei Paradjanov, whose career spanned some 40 years and who spent four years in a Soviet labour camp, died on Friday aged 66 after a long illness.

Tass news agency said his death, announced on Saturday to the Armenian parliament, represented a serious loss to Soviet cinema. It did not give the cause of death.

He was flown to Paris in May for emergency treatment, and Armenian sources said he had lung cancer. While working on a new film a year ago he had a heart attack following the removal of one lung. (Reuters)

Joe Turner: Jazz pianist Joe Turner, who played with such greats as Louis Armstrong and Benny Carter, has died of a heart attack in Paris. He was 82.

Turner, who died Saturday at suburban Montreal Hospital, helped make famous the "Swing Style" of piano playing. His work earned him a place in jazz history beside pianists like James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, Art Tatum and Willie "The Lion" Smith.

Since 1962, he had played in La Calaveras, a night club on the Champs Elysees.

Turner was born Nov 3, 1907, in Baltimore. At 18, he left the city to pursue his musical career in New York. (AP)

Manuel Puig: Argentine writer Manuel Puig, author of the novel that became the widely-acclaimed movie "The Kiss of the Spider Woman," died on Sunday in Mexico of complications following an operation, the official state news agency reported.

One of Latin America's most important literary figures, Puig, 57, died following a gall bladder operation in the city of Cuernavaca about 50 miles (80 kms) south of the capital, state news agency Notimex reported.

His novel "The Kiss of the Spider Woman" focused on the relationship between a homosexual character jailed for corrupting an underage youth and his cell-mate, a single-minded revolutionary. (Reuters)

فكراتنا

Trying to reverse reputation for arrogance, high living

Rajiv seeks new image for political comeback

NEW DELHI, July 23, (UPI): Rajiv Gandhi is busy cultivating a new image these days: trying to replace a reputation for arrogance and high living with one of humility and down-home affinity with the common man.

The former prime minister makes it a point to leave New Delhi two or three times each week, travelling to different parts of the country to meet as many potential voters as possible.

He makes periodic whistle-stop train tours riding in second-class passenger cars, braving the sweltering Indian summer heat. He visits villagers who have suffered from communal violence or from natural disasters.

Not long ago, Rajiv, 45, led fellow party members in a day-long fast near the crematorium site of the martyred father of Indian independence, Mohandas K. "Mahatma" Gandhi — no relation to the former prime minister.

The purpose of the exercise, of course, is aimed at increasing his popularity and eventually regaining the power he lost in last November's national elections, in which Rajiv's Congress (I) Party suffered a crushing defeat.

But will this technique help the grandson of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, back to the prime minister's seat, or is his political career — and the so-called Nehru-Gandhi dynasty that has ruled India for all but four of 43 years of independence — finished?

"In politics nothing is final," said K.R. Sundar Rajan, a nationally syndicated columnist. "In 1977, his mother, Indira, was defeated and everyone thought she was finished forever. But she came back to power. Rajiv can also come back to power. But at the moment his prospects are not very bright."

The scene was quite different at the beginning of Rajiv's term in office following the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984.

Nicknamed "Mr. Clean," Rajiv was seen as an energetic statesman who made bold moves to stem the tide of India's frequent ethnic violence and who appeared to take a tough stand against corruption in government.

But the young prime minister's administration was to become plagued by inefficiency and internal bickering.

Rajiv also found himself embroiled in a number of scandals involving charges of

high-level corruption, including alleged kickbacks paid to government officials in the purchase of a \$1.3 billion artillery system from Sweden's A.B. Bofors.

Also, Rajiv had acquired a reputation for enjoying the good life — fancy watches, stylish clothes and expensive cars — and of having little connection with millions of his fellow Indians, many of whom live in abject poverty.

Now, eight months after his defeat, Rajiv seems to realise the need to change the way he is perceived by most voters.

He has made himself more accessible to fellow party members and to the public in an attempt to counter long-standing charges that he is elitist and aloof.

"This looks like it is going to be his technique, to appear as a (Mahatma) Gandhi, a common man," said Khushwant Singh, a novelist, historian and New Delhi's most widely read columnist. "He travels around the country in second-class rail cars and he went on a fast. Well, you don't abstain from food for one day and become a Mahatma Gandhi."

Still, said Singh, the approach just might have the desired effect.

"In some ways it may work," he said.

"About 70 per cent of the population is illiterate and are very easily swayed by these manifestations, by this gimmickry."

As Rajiv slowly works to woo the masses, the one-time Indian Airlines pilot also is occupied with maintaining party unity.

Most observers believe that for the moment, Rajiv is the undisputed leader of his party and that there are no likely successors in the horizon.

"The Congress only has one leader," said Khushwant Singh. "And that is Rajiv Gandhi. He has the charisma of being Nehru's grandson and Indira's son."

P. Chidambaram, a former member of Parliament and one of Rajiv's close associates, agrees but cautions that the party has some important housekeeping to attend to.

"As far as Rajiv's leadership is concerned, it is beyond challenge, now or in the future," Chidambaram said. "But that is not a picture of total unity because at the state levels there are serious factions. And these factions will affect our performance in future elections. It will endanger our capacity to win elections."

That weakness was clearly demonstrated in February when the Congress (I) Party lost

six of eight state assembly elections.

As a result, its one-time dominant political empire shrank to only seven of 25 states, none of them in northern India, the party's traditional stronghold.

Contributing to the party's internal problems may be the fact that party elections have not been held since 1972.

"There is a lot of unhappiness among the older members of the Congress (I) Party," said one Western diplomat. "They are unhappy because the party never did a self-examination following its election defeats. They feel it is time to take a look at themselves, find out what went wrong and rebuild the party."

Another factor determining Rajiv's political future is the success of Prime Minister V.P. Singh's National Front government, a five-party minority coalition that is able to govern with the backing of the Hindu chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and India's two communist parties.

Whether the government will survive is a matter of considerable discussion among political analysts.

"I don't think the National Front will go belly-up any time soon," said a Western diplomatic observer. "Neither the BJP nor

the left will bring down the government because that would help bring back the Congress (Party), which neither one wants. It is also premature for any faction to stand for election on their own."

But political squabbling within the National Front government has led others to adopt a more pessimistic vision.

"Deep cracks have already appeared in the government," said columnist Khushwant Singh.

So uncertain is the future of the government, said Singh, that some people have taken out bets.

"I've taken one myself," he said. "A friend of mine thinks the government will be gone by the end of the year and I said it will survive. Five-to-one odds. But now I'm beginning to feel uneasy that he'll win the bet."

Rajiv, meanwhile, bides his time and works steadily toward restoring his power base in the world's largest democracy. Relatively inexperienced in politics before he became prime minister, he now has a chance to gain the kind of political management experience he has lacked and to devise a workable and winning political strategy.

11 MPs resign to protest atrocities

Curfew clamped in northern Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, July 23, (Agencies): Lawmakers considered close to the Tamil Tiger rebels resigned from parliament today, accusing the military of atrocities and genocide in a war with the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, the government declared a curfew in northern Kilinochchi district, scene of a fierce gunbattle yesterday that killed 18 rebels and nine soldiers. The military said it was hunting fleeing rebels.

Military officials said 76 rebels were killed in separate fighting in the east Sunday, and eight soldiers and three civilians in the north.

The deaths raise to at least 2,856 the number of combatants killed since fighting resumed June 11 between the military and the rebels.

The bodies of eight Muslims, believed killed by rebels, were also found in the east, said military officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

All eleven members of the Eelavur Democratic Front announced their resignation from parliament. Last month, the group had called for a ceasefire between the rebels and the government. President Ranasinghe Premadasa rejected the offer, asking the rebels to lay down their arms first.

"It appears that the hope we had that the solution be made through political measures is not sensible," they said in a statement. "The chance to find a solution to the problems of the Tamil-speaking people is out of reach."

"We do not want to be dormant spectators who witness the tormentation of our people," they added.

The Eelavur Democratic Front had won 13 of the 225 seats in Parliament in 1989 general elections. Two of its members resigned earlier this year citing personal reasons.

The fighting has been restricted to the Tamil-dominated north and east of the island off



A police commando inspects a burnt-out jeep in Tirukovilo. The Sri Lankan government forces have begun an offensive against the Tamil Tigers. (Reuters wirephoto)

India's southern coast. The rebels want to establish an independent nation in the areas.

In the east, the military has pushed the guerrillas out of major towns into surrounding jungles, and it called the fighting yesterday that killed 76 rebels a mop-up operation.

The rebels continue to hold the north and are beating back determined government efforts to recapture the area.

The fighting is the latest phase of the seven-year-old war for an independent Tamil homeland, set off by Tamil accusations of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese community.

Tamils make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and the Sinhalese, who control

the government and the military, comprise 75 per cent.

At least 13,800 people have been killed in the insurrection.

Security forces unveiled scores of decaying bodies half-buried in the eastern Sri Lanka bush yesterday and said they were policemen abducted and killed by Tamil separatist guerrillas.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels ended 13 months of peace talks on June 11 and seized about 1,000 policemen, most of them from the majority Sinhalese community, along this Indian Ocean coastal belt.

Tamil policemen were freed and some others escaped, but the government said 630 were missing, believed dead.

Islamic clerics condemn Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, July 23, (AP): Islamic fundamentalists, who earlier predicted god's wrath would descend on Pakistan for allowing a woman to rule, on Sunday branded Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto a "non-Muslim."

Her crime, according to the United Council of Ulama (Islamic clerics), was to denounce as "improper and unsuitable" the cutting off of hands for theft, a punishment meted out in the Quran, the Muslim world's holy book.

Unless the prime minister rescinds the comments attributed to her in last Friday's edition of the Urdu-language daily Jang newspaper, firebrand fundamentalists have promised to wage a street battle in the name of Islam.

Mohammed Yahya, a spokesman for the United Council of Ulama, warned that if Ms Bhutto doesn't do so before Friday, the Islamic holy day, Muslim clerics would condemn her from loudspeakers atop mosques around the country.

"We will definitely call the people onto the street... this is what we have to do," said Yahya, who was speaking by telephone from the office of Ms. Bhutto's often hostile opposition — a loose alliance of nine parties espousing ideologies that range from religious fundamentalism to right-wing.

Yahya said 50 clerics from the eastern city of Lahore signed a decree denouncing the prime minister. The same decree will be circulated among clerics in Pakistan's major cities, he said.

"When anyone clearly says something written in the Quran is not proper, the Ulama, from all schools of thought, (have no choice but) to issue an agreed edict that she is a non-Muslim now," Yahya said.

Ms Bhutto's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Rahim said: "Today it's not a religious issue. It's a political matter and religion is being used."

"No Muslim can declare another Muslim a non-Muslim. These Ulama do not understand Islamic law."

Rahim said Ms Bhutto's comments were published out of context.

A translation of the Jang article, which was featured on the newspaper front page, quoted Ms Bhutto as saying "we want the supremacy of parliament and I don't think it's proper or suitable to cut off the hands of the people."

Ms Bhutto was reportedly fielding questions on a controversial Shariah Bill, which if passed by the legislature would impose Islamic law in Pakistan.

Liberal Pakistanis have rejected the bill, fearing the power it would give Islamic clerics, who would interpret law according to their reading of the Quran.

NEWS IN BRIEF

India to increase spending: India, facing a big increase in Aids over the next five years, is to increase significantly its spending on combating the killer disease.

A Health Ministry spokesman said on Monday the government planned to spend 320 million rupees (\$18 million) over the next three years on acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

India spent less than two million dollars on Aids last year. (Reuters)

Theatre blast, 10 killed: At least 10 people were killed and 33 hurt when a bomb blast ripped through a packed cinema hall in India's Karnataka state, police said on Sunday.

The bomb went off on Saturday night while a movie was being shown in the theatre in the southern town of Bidar, the scene of communal clashes between Hindus and migrant Sikhs last year, about 600 km (375 miles) north of Bangalore, the state capital, police said. (Reuters)

Bus-van collision, 10 dead: A passenger bus collided head-on with a mini-van to capacity, killing 10 people and injuring 18, news reports said Sunday in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The accident occurred late Saturday on a winding stretch of road near the village of Akhara Khataik, about 30 miles (48 kilometres) east of the border city of Peshawar, according to the Frontier Post, an English-language daily published in Peshawar.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known, police said. (AP)

Yaqub Khan in Cairo: Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met in Cairo Sunday with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid.

Official Foreign Ministry sources said following the meeting that the two sides discussed international issues of mutual concern and ways of bolstering bilateral relations. (Kuna)



Kashmiri women chant anti-Indian slogans in front of the Indian embassy in Islamabad. (Reuters wirephoto)

11 drown in Dhaka: An overcrowded boat sank in a flooded river in southeastern Bangladesh, killing 11 passengers, police said Monday.

In the northwest, four children drowned Sunday in the Jamuna river, raising to 13 the death toll in recent monsoon flooding, officials and news reports said. About 100,000 people are homeless and 400,000 stranded in the area, the reports said. (AP)

Libya expresses concern: Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Sharif, special envoy of Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi, today met Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and delivered a message from Khaddafi to him which deals with the Kashmir issue.

Libya has expressed concern over escalation of tension between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and is making efforts to persuade the leadership of New Delhi and Islamabad to settle their problems in a cordial atmosphere.

Terror reigns in Punjab

Officials fear 1990 will be deadliest since violence began 9 years ago

AMRITSAR, India, July 23, (AP): Kartar Singh has a recurring nightmare.

He's driving home from his machine tool factory. Sikh militants in turbans of iridescent orange surround his car and police are too frightened to help.

"I see the nozzles of the guns and they fire and everything goes red," he said.

These days in Punjab, Singh's nightmare is often a reality, and being a Sikh does not exempt him from the terror.

Sikh militants have killed about 1,400 people so far this year in their fight for a separate nation called Khalistan, or land of the pure. Security forces have killed nearly 250 of the extremists and some innocent bystanders.

Government officials fear 1990 will be the deadliest year since the separatist violence began nine years ago.

A seemingly endless spiral of harsh police crackdowns, rising crime, unemployment and the introduction of advanced weapons by the militants has thrown this rich agricultural state into chaos.

The increasing violence threatens the position of Prime Minister V. P. Singh, who has partially staked his prestige on being able to solve the problem.

Punjab's geography adds complications. It adjoins both Pakistan, India's long-time antagonist, and Jammu-Kashmir state, where a movement within the state's Muslim majority seeks independence from India.

Sikh militants in Punjab are believed to be one source of weapons for Kashmir's separatists, and India has accused Pakistan of providing arms and training to rebels in both states. Pakistan denies it.

"We are facing a war," said Narinderpal Singh, police chief of Punjab's Tarn Taran district. "It seems like it will go on forever."

Singh, which means lion, is part of every Sikh name, but also has become a common surname for Hindus. Prime Minister Singh is a Hindu.

The fields of Punjab are green and lined with trees. The northwestern state is India's breadbasket, producing 60 per cent of the country's rice and wheat.

But amid the lush countryside, terror abounds.

Hindus, once the main target of Sikh militants, have abandoned dozens of villages around the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, an agricultural centre 250 miles (400 kilometres) northwest of New Delhi.

Fellow Sikhs like Kartar Singh now bear the brunt of the separatist wrath.

"They either say we're police informants or we don't love Khalistan enough," he said.

In Tarn Taran, 121 of the 137 civilians killed so far this year were Sikhs.

"Even a barking dog makes me afraid now," said Gurmit Kaur, a 20-year-old Sikh woman in Harikie village, 30 miles (48 kilometres) south of Amritsar. "Everything sounds like gunshots."

Last April, Ms Kaur watched as militants dragged her father from their farmhouse and killed him. They accused him of being a police informer.

Yet no one turns to the government for help.

Police and other security forces have been blamed for hundreds of deaths. Officials acknowledge security forces have tortured Sikh prisoners and killed suspected militants in "fake encounters".

"We are stopping that now," Virendra Verma, governor of Punjab, said in an interview. "We are trying to win back the hearts of the people."

Verma recently announced creation of 10,000 police and paramilitary jobs for unemployed Sikhs. Critics say the programme will help the militants by giving thousands of Sikhs access to weapons.

Many Punjabis say police brutality continues.

In Rajchauck village, half a mile (one kilometre) from Pakistan, residents say police beat 20-year-old Baljit Singh to death in early June. After Singh was arrested, villagers went to the police station to plea for his release, saying he was not a militant. The police said he had committed suicide.

Federal authorities recently sent the national security guard, an anti-terrorist force known as the "Black Cats", back into Punjab. The action appears destined to stir up more enmity, even among law enforcement officers.

The Black Cats, predominantly Hindu, generally have been used only in extreme situations, such as sieges to dislodge militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest shrine of Sikhism.

"Last year they came to our village and killed a bootlegger and two labourers, none of them ... militants," said Jagdeep Singh, a Sikh police chief in Harikie village. "This year, they'll do worse."

Singh's attitude highlights a growing gulf between Hindus and Sikhs in the state.

A decade ago, the two communities frequently intermarried and Hindu families adopted a tradition of raising one son as a Sikh. That tradition died as the ethnic conflict grew.

Sikhism began in the 15th century as an alternative to the rival Hindu and Muslim faiths, combining Hindu rituals with Islam's belief in one God.

It became a warrior faith after Muslim Moguls beheaded a Sikh guru in the late 17th

century. His son ordered all Sikh men to become soldiers of the faith and take the name Singh.

Sikh religious law requires men to wear a knife and prohibits them from cutting their hair or beards, which are considered signs of virility.

In 1981, Sikh radicals began the campaign for Khalistan to save what they described as their dying culture.

Militants attacked Hindus in Punjab, where about 60 per cent of the people are Sikhs. In India as a whole, Sikhs make up only 2 per cent of the 880 million people and Hindus are 82 per cent.

Separatists stored weapons in the Golden Temple. On June 3, 1984, the Indian Army attacked the temple in "Operation Blue Star", which Sikhs say defiled the shrine. More than 1,200 people were killed, most of them Sikhs.

Six months later, two Sikh bodyguards assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Hindu mobs rampaged in northern India, killing more than 3,000 Sikhs.

In 1988, the government again besieged the Golden Temple, killing 46 people. Plainclothes security agents now patrol the grounds and armed guards search visitors.

Sikh militants fled to the mand, a snake-infested mixture of badlands and swamp at the confluence of the Sutleg and Beas rivers, which run through the heart of Punjab.

Authorities say the area is impossible to patrol. "The only way to really beat the terrorists is to release lions into that swamp," said Ashok Kumar, who commands a company of the Border Security Force responsible for the mand.

He said the Sikhs are the best-armed militants in India, with night vision devices, plastic explosives, automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and shoulder-launched rockets.

Separatists have stolen about \$1 million from Punjab banks in the past three months, according to police. They also have kidnapped hundreds of people for ransoms totalling another million, police said.

"India must accept Khalistan or there will be total anarchy," said Rajinder Singh Mehra, head of the Sikh Students Federation, one of about 10 Sikh militant groups.

Even farming, Punjab's lifeline, has come under attack.

Militants have killed 24 members of the Rice Millers Association this year, including 10 Sikhs, and held 100 for ransom, said Ashok Sachdeva, a Hindu who heads the association and seldom leaves his home in Amritsar.

"What is life if there is no freedom?" he asked. "All of us in Punjab are like caged birds."

Bhopal victims yet to be paid

NEW YORK, July 23, (UPI): Five years after lethal gas escaped from a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, and caused history's worst industrial disaster, many people eligible for relief have not been paid, a published report said today.

The Indian government estimates about 1 million people in Bhopal were affected by the Dec 2, 1984, accident, but so far uneven relief distribution has deprived more than 400,000 of them of payments.

Last year the owner of the plant, Union Carbide, paid \$470 million to the government of India, following years of legal fighting. The company is challenging the settlement in court in New Delhi, the Times said.

In February the Indian government announced it would begin dispensing about \$210 million to about 500,000 people. In April the 500,000 victims began receiving monthly \$12 payments that will continue for the next three years, the newspaper said.

Opposition to boycott elections in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji, July 23, (AP): The opposition coalition voted yesterday to boycott elections under a proposed constitution that it charged would give indigenous Fijians political dominance over ethnic Indians.

Opposition leader Adi Kuini Bavandra said the decision had been reached "unanimously" by 200 delegates at a meeting in the city of Nadi of the National Federation-Party-Fiji Labour Party coalition, leaders of which led the country until military coups in 1987.

The government has yet to enact the proposed constitution, which calls for elections next year to elect a two-house Parliament based on racially-separate voting systems that would give indigenous Fijians an automatic majority.

Fiji's military-supported interim government has backed the draft

constitution as the best way to restore parliamentary rule, arguing that indigenous Fijian interests would be guaranteed and the rights of other races, including Indians, protected. But opposition delegates had felt their ideals of multiculturalism and democracy would be betrayed if the coalition took part in racially-weighted elections expected to be held next year, she said.

With the boycott, the elections likely will go ahead with only the military-backed government and minor parties fielding candidates.

"There was no question of us doing anything else," said Navin Maharaj, a former minister in the multiracial, Indian-dominated government of the late Timoci Bavandra, who was ousted in the first of two bloodless military coups in 1987.

Engineers working on controversial canal project in Punjab killed

CHANDIGARH, July 23, (AP): Sikh gunmen burst into a meeting of senior government officials today and shot dead two engineers working on a controversial irrigation project, police said.

The victims, chief engineer M.L. Sekhri and superintendent engineer A.S. Aulakh, were in charge of building a canal that will divert water from Punjab state to other parts of India.

Police inspector Jaspal Singh said three Sikhs burst into a meeting Sekhri was holding

with other officers on the Sutlej-Yamuna link canal project and opened fire with automatic pistols.

Sekhri, 52, and Aulakh, 50, were killed and two other officers were injured, Singh said.

The assailants fled on motor scooters, he said.

The project offices are located in a busy market complex in Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana states.

The canal is supposed to divert water from

the Sutlej river to the Yamuna river. Construction began in 1982 and is nearly completed, government officials say.

Sikh politicians, whose support largely comes from Sikh farmers in Punjab, fear the project will deprive the state of irrigation facilities.

Sikh militant groups, agitating for an independent nation in Punjab, have also opposed the canal. In May 1988, 32 labourers working on the project were shot and killed by Sikh radicals.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Alecso meets under Kuwaiti undersecretary

Status of institutes discussed

TUNIS, July 23, (Kuna): The executive council of the Arab League for Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alecso) resumed meeting here yesterday, under the chairmanship of Kuwait Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari.

Khodari told Kuna, following the meeting, that the council has passed a national plan called "Education for all in the Arab world by the year 2000," describing it as

"ambitious" and that it would help Arab states generalise basic education.

Khodari added that the council, which opened its discussions Saturday in the presence of Alecso's director-general and representatives of member states, also examined the status of the manuscripts institutes in Kuwait and Cairo and merging of the two institutes under one administration.

Alecso's chairman said that the meeting tackled the status of the Cairo-based Institute for Arab Research and Studies, following its merger with the research institute in Baghdad.

The conferees also looked into the organisation's financial situation and the possibility of benefiting from local currencies to run some of Alecso's affiliate bodies.

The meetings were due to wind up

tomorrow, but since the discussions are running ahead of schedule, they might come to a close today.

A closed session is due to be convened tomorrow, during which members will discuss the status of the cultural heritage in occupied Jerusalem, settling Alecso's situation in Cairo after the Arab League has named Tunis as the organisation's headquarters and the payment of membership dues.

Administration under development at Paaet

Research on training

THE Public Authority for Applied Education and Training is currently witnessing for the first time a sophisticated administrative development movement.

Entitled the "Nineties Project" it reflects development on the employment level and organisational plans.

The authority's administrative sector has carried out studies on all current systems at the authority in addition to reviewing models already implemented towards evaluating employee performance on which it will base its comprehensive administrative development process. The project, is basically intended to design a master plan for manpower at the authority.

A local daily interviewed General Director of Paaet, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Mhailan who said that the authority has carried out a study on administrative systems currently implemented at the authority. The study concluded that it is necessary to modernise, and develop several organisational and employment requirements to improve performance.

Teams

Dr Mhailan indicated that the Nineties Project cities several development aspects at the authority such as completing organisational structure, designing a comprehensive system to describe authority current posts, creating new operational and management policies for departments, study and review current models applied for the evaluation of authority employees, putting a complete organising structure for manpower plans at the authority, and indicating training requirements.

Dr Mhailan indicated that the project depends mainly on two main working teams consultation and implementation.

Meanwhile, director of the Administrative Development Office at Paaet, Dr Yaqoob Sayed Al Refai said that the office was among the first offices of its kind established on the government level. He added that the Nineties Project at the authority will be implemented as of the beginning of the new academic year. It aims at enhancing employees performance levels and will organise the distribution of specialities among employees at the authority.

In a related development the controller of the Training Centre at the Ministry of Finance Abdul Mohsen Al Moasharji has said that the centre provides training programmes in all different fields of relevance to work.

Programmes

He said the centre among other things prepares research and studies on needed training programmes, contributes in their implementation and follows up progress and performance of trainees.

He added that the centre also co-operates and co-ordinates with other training institutes and centres at relevant agencies inside and outside Kuwait.

He pointed out that the centre provided two types of programmes; public programmes which cater to the requirements of all ministry departments such as reporting, and conference management, and the other relates to special programmes developed in response to the requirements of one or two particular departments in the ministry.

Moasharji said that the centre currently has 120 instructors from different ministry departments, each specialised in a certain field, and they all were prepared and trained at the centre.

He added that the Centre has prepared a special programme

for the graduation of instructors, which involves three different programmes, one for the preparation of instructors, one for instructor operation and other for orientation in operation of training aids.

He said that the ministry work plan aims at developing the functional staff at different administrative levels, as well as upgrading performance of individuals and departments. The plan is a five-year scheme, each single year is termed a training year, which the ministry started to implement in July 1987 to end 30, June 1992.

Implementation

The training year begins with the fiscal year and ends with it. It is divided into two sections, each lasts for six months during which programmes and symposia are organised separately to facilitate implementation by the ministry departments.

Moasharji added that the training plan runs on two parallel lines. One involves all employees working in the fields of budgeting, accounting, storing, purchases in all government ministries, totalling 4,500 employees. The other involves the ministry's staff only totalling 1,000, the average participation of each in three programmes.

He said that the centre has trained about qualified a number of researchers in the field of carrying out an evaluation and conducting a research, adding that all questionnaires used before during and after the training programme are fed into the computer.

He said that there are three types of questionnaires used in the centre, one for trainees, one for the instructor and one for the supervisor. This enables the centre to rate and evaluate the performance of the trainee in relation to the output of the instructor.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir receives

KUWAIT, July 23, (Kuna): HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah received here yesterday the Indian Minister of Civil Aviation and acting Minister of Energy, Aref Mohammed Khan.

During the meeting the Indian official conveyed a letter from the President of India to HH the Amir.

The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Minister of Communications Habbab Jawher Hayat and Indian Ambassador to Kuwait A.K. Buddhiraja.

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, July 23, (Kuna): HH the Amir has sent a cable of congratulations to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt on the occasion of his country's national day.

Hijra celebrated

KUWAIT, July 23, (Kuna): The Islamic world today celebrates the annual anniversary of Prophet Mohammed's Hijra from Holy Makkah to Medina over 14 centuries ago.

The Ministry of Awkaf (Endowments) and Islamic Affairs last night held a religious ceremony on the occasion, which heralds the advent of the new Islamic year, as ministries and public and private institutions closed for the day.

The Awkaf Minister, Mohammed Nasser Al Hamdhan, in a brief statement, gave prominence to meanings of the event and said that it should be utilised to unite the Islamic nation.

He said that Kuwait remains an advocate working for peace in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Islam calls for peace based on respect for rights, good neighbourliness and building bridges of fraternity in an atmosphere of co-operation and harmony, Hamdhan said.

Mosques in Pak

ISLAMABAD, July 23, (Kuna): King Fahd of Saudi Arabia would provide three million riyals to build 50 mosques in Pakistan this year.

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Khan Bahadur, disclosing this today at a press conference, said that the Saudi King had already provided three hundred thousand riyals as the first instalment. He said the remaining amount would be given as the construction work progressed.

He said that the representatives of the Saudi government would visit Pakistan to monitor progress in construction work.

The Pakistan minister added that the Saudi Deputy Haj Minister Hassan Khaleel had donated 50,000 riyals to help build one mosque at Tangi in the frontier province.

Slaughterhouses

TEMPORARY slaughterhouses which had been designed to meet the increasing demand for sacrifices during Eid Al Adha will continue, according to the Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality.

Speaking to a local daily, the director of the department, Rashed Al Hashan said that the experiment had been a success during the past three years. These temporary slaughterhouses were intended to ease the pressure at the permanent slaughterhouses, he commented.

He disclosed that 14 sites are being prepared this year, compared to twelve last year and these sites are being supervised in co-operation with different departments at Kuwait Municipality and co-operative societies.

ACO session

A SESSION of the Permanent Bureau of ACO will be held during the first week of December in Cairo, secretary-general of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) based in Kuwait, Abdul Aziz Al Adasani said.

The forthcoming meeting will be the first to be held in Cairo after Egypt was restored as a member in the organisation. With the inclusion of Egypt, the total number of members in the bureau total 25, which represent all Arab capitals, besides Jerusalem and Hebron of the West Bank.

The session was to be held in November, but was postponed till December to accommodate the request of the Egyptian government and was the result of an invitation extended by the governor of Cairo to host the session, the official said.



Korean envoy

Minister of Public Works Jassim Mohammad Al Mousa received at his office recently the Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Byung Yong Soh.

Mumtaz Post extended

101 operators face 40,000 calls a day

THE Ministry of Communications through its various departments all over the country provides telephone and postal services to different groups in society. A local daily interviewed a number of employees at the ministry to highlight the extent of residents co-operation with them.

Farooq Rashed Ismael, assistant director of the Movement and Operation Department at the ministry said that the department works 24 hours a day to provide citizens with the "101" telephone information services. He added that the department receives a total of 40,000 101 information calls daily.

Farooq said that 101 operators face a lot of pressure and that some callers are unco-operative. He pointed out that a special network is operated to distribute calls to various operators. The majority of calls are received between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon and from 5.00 pm until 10.00 pm.

He indicated that the idea of distributing the 101 information services among all five governorates will lighten pressure on public and operators at the same time.

Raja Yousuf, an operator said that they are mostly annoyed by children's calls and called upon parents to co-operate with them. She added that some subscribers request names only without providing them with other necessary information. She indicated that the nature of work flow is adversely affected through harassment calls which are referred to officials who in turn refer them to the Ministry of Interior, she said.

Maryam Marzouk, another 101 telephone information operator, said that some subscribers have telephone directories and yet request them for information, which is already provided in the guide. She called upon subscribers to co-operate with them to lighten pressure as each operator answers to an average of 400 calls daily.

Abdul Rahman Al Radhan stated that he feels strongly towards some subscribers who request information with an ordering tone of voice. He added that some subscribers threaten operators and some call just to hear music. He called upon officials

at the Ministry of Communications to consider applying specific charges for information services. He said that this facility will force subscribers to use telephone directories rather than calling the telephone information services, 101.

Meanwhile, a press release from the Ministry of Communications, Post Office Department, announced the extension of Mumtaz Post service from Aug 1, 1990 to include Somalia (Mogadishu city only).

Mumtaz Post items are accepted at a specially designated window at the General Post Office counter, Fahd Al Salem Street, during regular working hours, daily except official holidays. Fees for the Mumtaz Post services are as under:

KD5 for the first half kilogramme or part thereof.

KD2 for every additional half kilogramme or part thereof.

The maximum weight limit of an item is 20 kgs. The Post Office Department accepts legal liability for Mumtaz Post item for (the paid postal charge plus the legal indemnity as mentioned in the UPU regulations).

In case of non-delivery of the Mumtaz Post item to the addressee for one week due to unforeseen reasons relates to the post office of origin or destination.

The Post Office Department accepts no legal liability in the following cases:

In case of damage or loss or delay in delivery due to circumstances beyond control.

In case of confiscation by the concerned authorities of the origin or destination due to the contents being prohibited.

Further details and information can be obtained from the office of the head of Mumtaz Post section at the Post Office Department, Fahd Al Salem St, Kuwait or call Tel No. 2420278.

The Mumtaz post service is available to the following countries:

Rabiya residents

Complaints of noise and smell in area

A LOCAL daily has interviewed a number of residents in the Rabiya district to monitor their satisfaction with the existing public services.

Barrak Mansour said that idle youth are too many in the area and they are a public nuisance, because they stay up late at night, sing loudly, burn car tyres and drive recklessly, jeopardising the lives of youngsters on internal roads.

Khaled Saleh said that prices at the local co-op are high, and that the whole prices are growing higher in all co-ops, particularly after the latest pay-increase.

Garbage

Waleed Al Majed said that certain streets are poorly lit, and lamp-posts are only few in the area, stressing that some residents will carelessly dump their garbage in the streets, and do not care to put it in sacks, adding that this litters the streets and counteracts the regular cleaning services extended by the municipality.

Fahd Hamdan said that strolling paths are required in Rabiya for, and that there is no communal hall where residents can hold their receptions or social occasions at a convenient price.

Ahmad Murshed said that the major problem afflicting the area is that of bad smell emanating from the solid waste recycling plant located closeby, adding that the continuity of this problem has created bad psychology among residents.

He added that despite frequent complaints lodged with Kuwait Municipality to put an end to the bad smell problem, nothing has been done, and the smell is growing stronger. Needless to say that it has a harmful effect on youngsters and adults, and is a source of diseases.

He said that the smell is causing irreparable damage to the central AC system, which requires regular maintenance every six months. He pointed out that despite the intention of the Municipality Council to relocate it in response to unending complaints, not a finger has been lifted yet.

He called on the Ministry of Health to set up an ad-hoc committee to investigate into the health and environmental hazards caused by the bad smell which drives so many people to hold their wedding receptions somewhere else to avoid the unbearable stench.

Dental college imperative: Aidan

By Nash'at Al Agha

THE head of the dental division Dr Bader Al Aidan has said that the Dental Medicine Department is providing excellent service to both expats and citizens, and that the dental services are constantly developing since 1951.

He told Seyassah that it is becoming increasingly important to set up a college for dental medicine to meet the existing shortage in specialist dentists and reduce the long period of wait that patients have to endure before they can get a chance to see the dentist.

Dr Aidan said that the establishment of the proposed dental medicine college will primarily provide specialised Kuwaiti dentists, in order to meet the existing shortage of staff which led to the hiring of expats due to the unavailability of Kuwaiti doctors.

He said that the Department of Dental Medicine has, according to 1988 statistics, about 383 dentists, only 91 of them are Kuwaitis, and 90 dental technicians of whom only 33 are Kuwaitis.

He said that the nursing staff number is 403, of which 217 are Kuwaitis, accounting for 54 per cent of the total number of nurses.

He added that the total number of dentists operating in the public sector in 1988, is 1 for every 5,113 people, and the department has 783 dentists taking care of 1,958,455 people. (Kuwait's total population).

He said that the daily average of outpatient clients is 17.3 for each dentist, and the total number of outpatient clients in 1988 was about 1,460, 703, at 5,410 daily.

He said that the Ministry of Health has intensified its programmes on dental and oral health, and that implementation of these programmes began in 1983/84 catering to 10,000 students, boys and girls over four years, along with the prevention and treatment programme, while an American team of specialists undertakes the training of dentists and lays down the programme plan.

1988 witnessed a great growth in preventive services offered to the public and students, and the number of beneficiaries among students increased against the increase of dentists working on these programmes and related clinics, Dr Aidan said.

He added that the division contains 12 clinics, fully equipped with latest technologies, with 10 mannequins for practical experiments, central sterilisation room, dental X-ray equipment, four classrooms, one medical library with required audio-visual equipment as well as two maintenance workshops for dental equipment and to hold staff training seminars.

He said that there is also a special unit for training and continuous education where a number of refresher and training courses on diseases of the gums were held, and also the use of computers in orthodontics, as well as several other courses for nurses operating at the military hospital at the defence ministry.

Ajman ruler's brother laid to rest

AJMAN, UAE, July 23, (Kuna): The body of Sheikh Ali Bin Rashed Al Nuaimi Hammad, brother of the ruler of Ajman, was buried here yesterday.

Ruler of Ajman and other prominent rulers led the huge crowd of mourners. The ruler of Ajman returned Saturday night from abroad for the funeral procession.

The diwan of Ajman's ruler, Sheikh Hammad Bin Rashed Al Nuaimi Saturday announced the passing away of Sheikh Ali Bin Rashed Al Nuaimi.

Mourning the deceased, government offices in the Ajman emirate will be closed for three days as of yesterday while flags will be flown half-staff for seven days, the diwan said.



Manufacturing company talks

Minister of Commerce and Industry Nasser Al Roudhan received at his office recently Dr Abdulla Al Mijel and Abdul Aziz Al Bisher who explained to the minister steps to establish the United Gulf Manufacturing Company and activities of the company. The idea to establish the company was brought up during the conference of Gulf manufacturers that was organised by the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Investments.

Foreign shares draft law in September

THE executive charter law for dealing in financial papers and establishing investment funds for foreign companies has allowed these foreign companies to offer their shares for public subscription in Kuwait, provided the activities of these companies do not violate public values. The draft charter that is expected to be issued next September by a ministerial decision allows establishment of local companies to market foreign financial papers provided their capital is not less than KD500,000 and they submit a bank guarantee of KD250,000.

According to the draft charter the foreign companies will be able to trade in foreign financial papers and shares of investment funds in Kuwait through local agents registered with commercial agents. The charter asks the administration of the stock exchange to supervise records of share holders in companies not registered in the stock exchange. The administration should agree on the deals. The charter considers "the agent of the foreign company that deals in buying and selling financial papers as the sponsor for all activities in Kuwait. The charter stressed on the necessity to use Arabic language in all contracts, deals, correspondence and advertisements of the foreign companies. The records of activities of these companies will be under the control of the Ministry of Commerce and Central Bank.

Training for graduates

DR WALEED AL WAHEEB, director of the Manpower Resources Development Centre at the Civil Service Commission, has stressed the CSC's concern to qualify fresh graduates and train them in all needed professional basics to enable them to manage their new functional responsibilities.

He told a local daily that the centre is currently undertaking a full performance evaluation, including rating of programmes so far implemented since last November, 1989, and since its actual operation in March 1989 up to June 1990.

Anti-insect campaign begins

By Abdullah Al Shemari

AN official source at the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources has informed Seyassah that the authority has carried out necessary measures to combat the spread of the Arabian Chager in public gardens.

The source told Seyassah that many complaints have been received lately by the authority from a number of citizens regarding this annoying insect. Complaints stated that the Arabian

Chager was a cause of disturbance to many patrons in public gardens and residents at building sidewalks. A full investigation was carried out by the Agricultural Guidance Department to figure out facts about this insect.

Majeda Khaleel Mahmoud, a researcher in the agricultural sciences field at the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources said that this type of insect is characterised by its small structure, and resides and multiplies in farms and gardens. Such insects are attracted to lights. This is the

main reason it is highly noticed by people during the night near lights. The insect may sting humans causing an allergy at the sting spot. She added that the sting of the Arabian Chager does not cause any serious harm to humans.

In order to combat the spread of this insect, Majeda pointed out that special insecticides should be added to soil mixed with water. The researcher stressed that this type of insect is spread throughout Kuwait, particularly along the western coast of the Arabian Gulf.

Seized narcotics to be destroyed at Sabah

400,000 pills confiscated in 1989

THE director of control and inspection department at the General Customs Authority, Abdul Rahman Al Fares has said that inspectors of the department seized 63 pieces of hashish, 8 pieces of marijuana, 12 marijuana filled cigarettes, hashish, two bags of cocaine, ten small pieces of opium and 13 bags of heroin during last year.

Fares pointed out that customs inspectors also seized about 400,000 narcotic pills, 477 bullets, 175 guns and a large number of porno magazines and video films. They also seized 31,700 bottles of whiskey last year. The department arrested 54 persons on charge of illegal infiltration into the country. Fares pointed out

that customs men arrested many other individuals, specifics of which cannot be mentioned for security reasons. The department also seized 36 customs violations last year.

On the other hand, it was said that relevant authorities will destroy a large

quantity of narcotics next year. The Narcotics Prosecution prepared lists of quantities that will be destroyed. It determined July 30 as the date to destroy about 5 million narcotics pills, a quantity of hashish and opium besides some other narcotics. They will be burnt in the central oven of Sabah Hospital.

Labour law Amendment to activate economy, says Jaber

THE recent decision No. 92/1990 reducing the period of transferring residences in the private sector to two years is intended to activate the national economy.

Speaking on the issue, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah said that when the decision No. 87/1989 was issued, it was stipulated that the authorities would evaluate the results of the application and should the need arise, these would be amended.

The official said that to achieve public interests and to be flexible and taking the interests of employers and employees into consideration the decision was amended.

Speaking on prices of commodities at co-operative societies, the official said that most of these complaints related to the increase in the prices of vegetables and fruits. He said these items are seasonal and consequently follow the principle of supply and demand. He cited the example of last Ramadan when demand increased and prices followed.

However, he said that all other commodities have a unified price monitored by the Union of Co-operative Societies. Any increase in these prices is not due to the union, but is the result of an increase by exporters or difference in currencies. The union determines price of any commodity on the basis of profit margin ranging between 7 and 10 per cent of the cost price, he said.

He pointed out that specialised committees of the ministry provide the Civil Service Commission with suggested organisational structure of the ministry, including the training requirements of staff.

The minister pointed out that Kuwait has a continuous and effective presence in all labour and social Arab and international organisations. Kuwait joined the Arab and international labour agreements which became the basic source of labour laws in different countries of the world.



Taxidermy course

A special summer course in taxidermy organised by the Kuwait Science Museum in co-operation with the School Activities Department concluded its activities yesterday.

The two-week course which was taken by more than 300 students, boys and girls, including theoretical lectures by specialists on how to stuff and preserve birds, fish and insects, as well as how to dry plants, through simplified scientific techniques.

The acting secretary-general at the museum Mahmoud Shihab said that the museum management prepared a nine-question contest for participants which were designed to fill practical and theoretical lectures at the course.

Mohammad Sabri Mustafa science supervisor, said that the course falls in line with the summer clubs programmes to develop skills in the field of taxidermy. He pointed out that the use of fish and small animals in the course is suitable for the ages of the participants.

KLTTC to ensure healthy sheep

THE chairman and managing director at Kuwait Livestock Trading and Transport Company (KLTTC) Faisal Al Khozan was quoted as saying that the company is extremely keen to ensure the import of sheep free of diseases.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the political and economic circumstances which were prevailing in the region had directly affected the performance of the company as well as the performance of their counterparts in the region. He clarified that the ravages of war and the political tension prevailing in the post-war era in the area during the past years had significantly affected all the livestock companies in the area.

Meanwhile, the official said that Kuwaiti individual meat consumption was relatively high compared to other GCC citizens. He clarified that Kuwaiti citizens consume about one third more than their European counterparts on an annual basis.

(Continued from Page 1)

Kuwait

Kuwait presented this memo (to the UN) we never requested that the memo be distributed to member states, nor did we seek any action in this regard on the part of the UN secretary-general, the source said.

The official Kuwaiti source said Kuwait sent to the Arab League a reply memo stressing Kuwait's commitment to the League's charter and its keen interest in solving such a problem, "sistering brothers" within the League's framework.

The source also noted that in addition to its contacts with Arab countries over the row, Kuwait has received Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi in the past 24 hours in part of the League's efforts to contain the issue.

Confirmed

A UN spokesman confirmed today that Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhasan met with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the oil dispute between Iraq and Kuwait.

The spokesman insisted, however, that Kuwait did not ask for any

action by the secretary-general, but met him only to explain the Kuwaiti position.

Regret

Kuwait yesterday expressed deep regret and dissatisfaction at the sudden crisis between Kuwait and Iraq and hoped that Baghdad would take a just and practical position to enable Arab efforts from ending this dispute, in a way to keep the good relations between the two countries intact.

Secretary-general of the Kuwaiti cabinet Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al Oteibi said, following the weekly cabinet session held under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, that the council reviewed the outcome of contacts and meetings with the Kuwaiti diplomatic drive to resolve the Kuwaiti-Iraqi misunderstanding.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad also reported to the cabinet on his GCC tour, during which he handed Gulf leaders messages from HH the Amir on the unexpected Iraqi stance and the negative repercussions that might result from it.

Klibi

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi has scrapped his mediation in the Iraq-Kuwait crisis until he is assured of Iraq's co-operation, diplomatic sources reported today.

Klibi, after two days of talks with Kuwait's leadership, left yesterday for his headquarters in Tunis. He did not proceed to Iraq as had been anticipated.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said that he would head back from Tunis to Baghdad once he was assured of sufficient willingness for co-operation by Iraq.

Egypt, meanwhile has reportedly proposed a four-point solution to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, now visiting Cairo.

According to a report from Cairo distributed by the official Kuwait news agency, the points are:

■ Excluding threat of military action by any party against the other.

■ An Egyptian shuttle for rapprochement of views between the two countries, with help from other Arab countries welcomed.

■ A reconciliation meeting at foreign ministers level, possibly in Cairo, with the participation of a "limited number of Arab countries who have political weight."

■ The ending of all media campaigns against each other.

Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Council Abdul Aziz Al Misned was quoted as saying that a speedy settlement to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi differences was feasible.

In a press statement released in East Germany Misned said that His Highness the Amir has proposed the formation of an independent Arab League committee grouping three or four foreign ministers.

Misned said that the Amir's proposal was contained in messages dispatched to leaders of the Arab countries through personal envoys.

He noted that the League was currently discussing the formation of that committee which is to supervise the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders based on historical documents.

Syria, Iraq's arch-Arab foe, appealed for calm today to defuse the crisis between Baghdad and Kuwait which has sent shock waves through the Gulf.

In his first public comments on the row, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said quiet diplomacy was needed to resolve the issue.

"President Assad said there should be no escalation and (stressed) the necessity of solving Arab differences by talking," the Syrian news agency

Sana quoted the president as telling envoy Abdul-Rahim Al Awadi, Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs.

Sana said Awadi delivered a message on the dispute to Assad from Kuwait's Amir. The Kuwaiti minister, who arrived from Jordan yesterday, will leave for Lebanon later today to "hand" a similar message to President Elias Hrawi.

A Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation is to visit Arab capitals to back up the government's diplomatic offensive with regard to the Iraq-Kuwait dispute, reported an influential local daily today.

The newspaper quoted parliamentary sources as saying the idea will be tabled before the National Council for approval in its Tuesday session.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat received a message last night from the Amir of Kuwait on the recent dispute between Kuwait and Iraq.

The message was delivered to Arafat by the special envoy of Kuwait's Amir, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Al Abdullah Al Othman during his meeting with the Palestinian president.

Following his meeting with Arafat, Othman told Kuna that the message includes Kuwait's position on latest developments in the Arab arena and necessity to move at the Arab level to contain any accidental crisis among brothers.

Yemeni President Ali Abdulla Al Saleh said yesterday HH the Amir of Kuwait and Iraq, said his country had demonstrated full understanding of the need to resolve the row between their countries amicably.

Saleh, briefing the presidential council on his contacts with several Arab leaders on the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq, said his country will continue to play a leading role in efforts to bring about pan-Arab solidarity in the face of the "Zionist enemy" of the nation.

Oman's Foreign Undersecretary for Political Affairs Haythem Ben Taymour said today expressed hope that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute would soon be resolved.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency before his departure to Egypt and Tunisia, Taymour said the dispute is "a passing cloud."

Condemnation

A local philanthropic society today voiced indignation and condemnation of the Iraqi note sent to the Arab League against Kuwait, calling for its withdrawal, and asserted that there is no problem between Iraq and Kuwait which leaders of the two countries can not solve by themselves.

The Society for Revival of Muslim Heritage said, in a statement distributed today, that Iraq's attitude towards Kuwait only benefits enemies of the Muslim nation.

It particularly expressed resentment over Iraq's unfounded accusations against Kuwait and the language of threat it was written in. The Federation of Co-operative Societies yesterday supported whatever measures the government would take to maintain Kuwait's sovereignty and denounced the Iraqi accusations against Kuwait.

In a cable to His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah the federation said the row which erupted between Iraq and Kuwait last week was "a fabricated crisis" and that Kuwait's leaders would contain it wisely through consultations and dialogue.

The federation said the Iraqi charges against Kuwait, were distorted facts.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Journalists Society deplored the eruption of

the row between Iraq and Kuwait and expressed hope that this "passing" problem would be contained by the two brotherly neighbours.

The society, however, noted that the anti-Kuwaiti memo sent by Iraq to the League contained an air of intimidation and provocation, an attitude, which the society said, does not serve the joint interests of two countries.

The Society of Accountants and Auditors said in a statement the Iraqi accusations against Kuwait have been received with astonishment particularly in view of their virulent language.

The society indicated it hopes that Iraq would retract its accusations and seek a settlement of the crisis through dialogue under the Arab League umbrella.

Staff of Kuwait University and applied science colleges sent HH the Amir a message pledging support for the Kuwaiti leadership and citing Kuwait's generous contributions to the development of other Arab countries and its principled stance on the nation's pivotal issues.

Barges

Board chairman and director general of the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) has appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to resort to Arab national principles to settle the transient dispute between Iraq and its Gulf neighbours, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

In a letter addressed to President Hussein, Barges said it was regrettable that the dispute surfaced at a time the Arab nation was in need of the unity of its rank and file more than any time to confront its enemies.

Trade cutoff

US-Iraq relations could take another turn for the worse if members of Congress are successful in their drive to cut off virtually all commerce between the two countries.

The Senate banking committee last week unanimously approved legislation that would deny agricultural and export-import bank credits to Iraq as well as bar the sale of technological items that could be used by the military.

"I called right through committee," said Kansas Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, sponsor of the amendment. "I frankly was amazed."

Kassebaum's measure — an amendment to the Export Administration Act — is likely to be brought to the Senate floor before the August recess because lawmakers must meet a deadline to extend the export act.

Congress Howard Berman of California, a major player in trying to isolate Iraq, said sanctions are the only way the United States can force Saddam to change his stand. "Iraq is a country where meaningful sanctions could deter its conduct," he said.

Weather

REMARKABLY hot weather with light to moderate northerly wind. State of sea: Slight to moderate. High water: 1.56 am, 12.37 pm. Low water: 7.15 am, 8.13 pm. Sunrise: 5.03 am. Sunset: 6.45 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 49°C 120°F. Ahmedi: 45°C 113°F. Fallaka: 46°C 115°F. Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 49°C 120°F. Ahmedi: 45°C 113°F. Fallaka: 46°C 115°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 30°C 86°F. Ahmedi: 34°C 93°F. Fallaka: 37°C 90°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 22 per cent. Ahmedi: 55 per cent. Fallaka: 30 per cent.

Riyadh-Beijing ties established

Taipei cuts relations, Chien resigns

JEDDAH, July 23, (Agencies): Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen yesterday delivered an invitation to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to visit Beijing following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

After the audience with the Saudi monarch, Qian told a press conference that the invitation from President Yang Shangkun had been accepted by King Fahd and the date would be fixed later.

The meeting was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal who signed the documents with Qian establishing the theocratic kingdom's first diplomatic tie with a communist nation.

Prince Saud rushed back late Saturday night from a mediation mission in Baghdad to defuse the Kuwait-Iraq crisis for the signing ceremony, which took place in the capital Riyadh before the two ministers came to Jeddah for the meeting with the King.

Qian told the press conference that his talks with the Saudi monarch were "very friendly" and confidently predicted an impressive development in economic and trade relations between the two countries which he noted existed before the establishment of diplomatic ties.

He also spoke at length about Beijing's stand on the Palestinian problem, stressing Chinese keenness to see a just settlement of the Middle East problem at a UN-sponsored international peace conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Qian deplored the Soviet Jewish influx into Israel, the suspension of the American peace dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the formation of a hardline government in Israel as "impediments" to a settlement.

China, he stressed, stood for a peaceful settlement and the "non-resort to violence."

He added: "There should be mutual recognition between the State of Palestine and Israel and peaceful co-existence between Israelis and Arabs, and the key to that lies in respect for the right of Palestinians to self-determination and an Israeli pullout from occupied Arab territories."

Asked about the status of Muslims in China, whom he estimated at 16 million, Qian insisted that they enjoyed religious freedom "guaranteed by the government" and that there were no less than 20,000 mosques in China.

Impact

Following the signing ceremony in the capital Riyadh, Prince Saud was quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency as saying the move is "an important step that will have an impact on the interest of the two nations and the interest of our Arab and Islamic nations."

Expressing his satisfaction at the decision, he noted that China "enjoys prominent international status and has a glorious reputation and history."

In similar statements, Qian stressed relations between the kingdom and China "have entered a new developed stage that not only conforms to the interests of our two nations but also serves the preservation of peace, stability and development in the two regions in which our two countries are located and throughout the world."

The move closed the chapter of the theocratic Islamic kingdom's refusal to establish diplomatic ties with any communist nation and was expected eventually to pave the way for a similar step with the Soviet Union.

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition they not be named, said however that ties with Moscow were not expected to be established this year.

In the ultra-conservative kingdom, communism was long held to be akin to atheism. The dramatic changes that started with the perestroika of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and spread to East Europe and other communist nations helped change the Saudi outlook.

"Communism now is over," said a newspaper editor commenting on the move.

"It is only a matter of interests, and there is considerable economic and political interest in the kingdom's establishment of ties with Beijing. When Riyadh sees that interests dictate relations with Moscow, there will be no hesitation about taking the step."

There has been a relative warming in relations between Riyadh and Moscow since the Soviet military pullout from Afghanistan. Some 1,500 Soviet Muslims were allowed to perform the pilgrimage to Makkah this year, the highest in modern times.

But there are still problems such as finding a settlement in Afghanistan and the large-scale emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Diplomatic sources pointed to extensive horizons for political and economic relations for the kingdom with China. They noted that Beijing is a permanent member of UN Security Council and has consistently supported the Palestinian cause in world forums.

The same sources said that China, with a population exceeding one billion, also presented the kingdom with a huge market for oil and petrochemicals, backbone of the Saudi economy.

In return, China has won a prize catch in gaining co-operation from the Saudis, the richest Arab nation and the world's largest oil-exporting country, the sources noted. China can look to possible Saudi and other Arab investments.

The Saudi decision reduced to 27 the number of countries that recognise the Taiwan Nationalists compared to 136 that have ties with China.

The establishment of ties between Riyadh and Beijing, announced in both capitals shortly after midnight yesterday in Saudi Arabia (2100 GMT), was contained in a brief joint statement that said Saudi Arabia recognised the People's Republic of China as the "sole legitimate government representing the entire Chinese people."

'Missile diplomacy'

Taipei cut diplomatic links with Saudi Arabia yesterday after the kingdom switched recognition to China, charging Beijing was engaging in "missile diplomacy" to win new diplomatic partners.

Taipei would keep the door open to other ties, Nationalist Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Taipei has lodged a strong protest with Riyadh against what it called the disruption of long-standing close ties, the statement said.

"In view of the kingdom's disregard of the traditional friendship between our two countries, the government of the Republic of China has instructed its embassy in Riyadh to lodge the strongest protest against the kingdom for the decision," the Foreign Ministry said.

The two countries would maintain economic and other links, it said.

Taiwan's foreign minister tendered his resignation today following Saudi Arabia's break-off of diplomatic ties with Taipei, the Foreign Ministry said.

Fredrick Chien handed in his resignation to Premier Hau Pei-tsun taking full responsibility for Saudi Arabia's split with Taiwan on Sunday. The premier has asked him to stay, a ministry official said.

Political analysts said the break with Saudi Arabia was Taiwan's biggest foreign-policy setback since the United States severed ties with Taiwan in 1979. Saudi Arabia was the only Middle East country that recognised Taiwan and is the island's main oil supplier.

The split with the kingdom followed the announcement by Indonesia that it would restore ties with China on August 8 after a 23-year freeze. Singapore said earlier it would also set up ties with Beijing soon.

Chien attributed the loss of an ally on Saturday to China's aggressive diplomatic overtures towards the kingdom since 1988.

Beijing sold about \$3.5 billion worth of medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia after Riyadh failed to buy the weapons from the United States, he said.

Taiwan has also engaged in military co-operation with Saudi Arabia. Foreign Ministry officials declined to give details.

Chien told former Saudi ambassador Asaad Abdul Aziz Al Zuhair yesterday that Taiwan wanted Riyadh to speed up talks on future relations.

He asked Saudi Arabia to protect Taiwan citizens, the former embassy in Riyadh and the consulate-general in Jeddah.

Despite the diplomatic break, real ties between Saudi Arabia and Taiwan would thrive, Zuhair told reporters.

"The friendship between the two countries and peoples will remain and will grow stronger. And I can assure you that there is nothing to worry about," he said. "It's the change of names only."

Saudi Arabia, the last Middle East nation to sever ties with Taipei, is Taiwan's biggest oil supplier, accounting for about a third of its total imports of more than 430,000 barrels a day.

Oil supplies would not be affected, the government said.

Taiwan will send two envoys to Riyadh on Tuesday to negotiate future relations with Saudi Arabia following the kingdom's switch of recognition to China, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Taiwan severed diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia on Sunday after Riyadh established ties with Beijing. But both Taiwan and Saudi Arabia said they would continue economic and other links.

Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien told reporters on Monday he was not optimistic about the negotiations. He said there had been no contacts with senior Saudi officials since June 1.

"They have not even revealed what they expect out of this round of talks," said Chien.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has arrived in Cyprus after his visit to Saudi Arabia, during which Riyadh and Beijing established diplomatic ties.

Qian, who will spend three days in the island, was due to meet President George Vassiliou and Foreign Minister George Iacovou on Monday.

The Cyprus News Agency said UN-sponsored efforts to reunite the divided island were likely to be one of the main topics.



Saudi Arabia's former ambassador to Taiwan, Asaad Abdul Aziz Al Zuhair, told reporters Sunday, his country's ties with Taiwan will remain. "I can assure you there is nothing to be worried about," he said. A right is an unidentified journalist.

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IT IS a great nuisance that knowledge can only be acquired by hard work — W. Somerset Maugham, English writer (1874-1965).

Global power shifting America role is changing

WASHINGTON, (AP): It was a snapshot of shifting global power: A beaming Mikhail Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl standing together and announcing to the world an agreement that increased the momentum toward German unification.

Relegated to the sidelines for the moment, US President George Bush cheered on the Soviet and German leaders with back-to-back telephone calls.

There is no question that Bush has been instrumental in the Western response to swiftly moving currents in the Eastern bloc. But his long-distance reply to the Gorbachev-Kohl decision last week illustrates America's changing role in the world.

After decades of projecting global influence on the strength of its nuclear arsenal and economic power, the United States is struggling to adjust.

Leadership

"America's leadership is still dominant but now it has to be based on a bigger variety of factors than just who has the bomb," White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said. "It's a greater test of leadership to guide events in this climate."

Stephen Hess, of the Brookings Institution, an influential think tank, said, "we're not a hapless giant, we remain important player. But it's no longer a bipolar world" of just the United States and Soviet Union.

Whereas former president Ronald Reagan sought to assert US dominance to counter Soviet military might, Bush offers the hand of friendship to Moscow and strives for accommodation and conciliation with restive Western allies. The Kremlin, long the chief adversary to Washington, is regarded today as more of a welfare case as its Warsaw Pact crumbles and its military muscle fades.

"We're still No. 1 militarily," University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato said. "The bad news is that it doesn't matter as much as it did two or three years ago. As the importance of the military declines, power has to flow to Bonn and Tokyo, in particular."

Indeed, West Germany, surging toward unification with East Germany and a prosperous future, and Japan, basking in great wealth, are the major rivals to the United States for political and economic influence.

Restraint

While offering words of encouragement to developing democracies the United States is restrained by its economic problems. Tokyo replaces Washington as the world's biggest foreign aid donor.

Duke University political scientist James David Barber assesses the United States as "a secondary nation rather than as the leading champion of democracy in the world."

"The president of the United States is not coming forth as a person standing for global democracy but rather a person responding to (South Africa's Nelson) Mandela, to (Czechoslovakian President Vaclav) Havel, to (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev and trying to wing it on the basis of the placidity of the American people," Barber said.

After the seven-nation summit in London this month, America's allies spoke comforting words on Washington's global role.

"There are three great groups of nations at the summit, one based on the dollar, one based on the yen, and one based on the deutsche mark," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said.

French President Francois Mitterrand said, "I hope America does not have the idea they are sort of out of it. That is not the case. The threat from the Soviet world has been reduced. Because of that, Europe can assert its personality."

Changed

Bush acknowledges that times have changed. "Earlier on, in terms of the alliance, we had a much more formidable military opposition. Now we see the Warsaw Pact in almost a state of disarray, we see troops coming out, we see democracies replacing totalitarian systems. So you have an entirely different era," Bush said.

Despite the new environment, the White House is determined that the United States not appear as a passive player in global developments.

After Gorbachev dropped his objections to a unified Germany in NATO, Bush felt it was necessary to offer a detailed explanation of how the United States had helped advance German unification.

Similarly, Bush points out that it was the United States that charted the new direction adopted by NATO at its recent summit. The administration also credits itself with leading the West toward conventional arms cut in Europe and arranging assistance for Poland, Hungary and other emerging democracies.

Political scientist Sabato observed that, "American power doesn't matter as much any more. On the other hand, which country are these newly emerging democracies emulating? It's the United States and Thomas Jefferson that they're quoting."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1545 — French fleet leaves the Solent in England unscathed after a successful attack.

1704 — British capture Gibraltar during war of the Spanish succession.

1712 — Dutch are defeated by French at Denain, France, and join Anglo-French troops.

1799 — Frances Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Turks at Aoukir in Egypt.

1847 — Convention of Gramado ends civil war in Portugal.

1850 — Schleswig-Holstein insurgents, whose territory was divided by peace of Berlin between Denmark and Prussia, are defeated at Inseld.

1922 — League of Nations Council approves mandates for Palestine and Egypt.

1942 — British bombers devastate German cities of Frankfurt and Mannheim in World War II.

1946 — United States makes first underwater test of an atomic bomb off atoll of Bikini in Pacific Ocean.

1969 — US Apollo 11 astronauts, first men to walk on moon, splash down safely in Pacific Ocean.

1970 — Sultan Said of Muscat and Oman is overthrown by his son, who becomes Sultan, Qaboos.

1971 — State of emergency is declared in Sudan during government crisis.

1973 — Four men who hijacked Japan Airlines plane release the 137 occupants, then blow it up and are arrested in Libya.

1976 — US spacecraft Viking 1 lands on Mars and starts tests to determine whether life exists on the planet.

1977 — Egypt's president Anwar Sadat orders his troops to observe immediate ceasefire in fighting with Libya.

1988 — Soviet military officer expresses doubt that Afghan army can hold its own after Soviet troops leave country.

Arafat not welcome in Cairo

Egyptian daily headline proclaims

CAIRO, (Reuters): Egypt and PLO leader Yasser Arafat are at daggers drawn, only months after they were closely co-ordinating a strategy for Middle East peace.

"Excuse me, Yasser Arafat, the Egyptian people will not be happy to receive you tomorrow or after tomorrow," said a front-page headline in Saturday's afternoon daily Al-Messara.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman was expected in Cairo this week. Official sources said they did not yet know if the war of words would force a postponement.

But Cairo-based diplomats believe the furor, while it may simmer for some time, will pass.

Cut

"I don't believe (Egypt's President Hosni) Mubarak is going to go so far as to cut ties with the PLO. It's a love-hate relationship," said one European envoy. "They need each other."

The diplomats said the row stemmed partly from frustration felt by both parties in failing to gain Israeli backing for proposed talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

Another important element, they said, was a shift in inter-Arab politics with Iraq emerging as bellicose champion of Arab rights and with Egypt and Syria mending a 13-year rift.

"I think both Iraq and the PLO were unhappy at (Syrian President Hafez) Al Assad's reconciliatory visit to Egypt eight days ago," said an Egyptian political analyst.

Syria and Iraq have been at daggers drawn for 20 years and the largely ideological rift has been widened by personal animosity between the two countries' leaders.

Syria and the PLO fell out during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Manipulation

Diplomats said that since the PLO's formation in 1964, it had to learn to cope with attempts at manipulation by Arab powers.

In turn, Arafat had learned to survive by playing one Arab capital off against another and ensuring he had at least one powerful ally at any one time. Iraq



Arafat unwelcome.

has long backed the PLO.

Cairo's state-owned daily newspapers have for three days carried front-page editorials attacking Arafat for remarks he is reported to have made about Egypt's close ties with Washington.

They reported Arafat telling Arab foreign ministers in Tunis that Washington was very generous in its aid to Israel, "while American aid to Egypt has reached the point where Egypt gets wheat week by week."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was also

quoted as joining in the criticism of Egypt and its ties with the United States. Aziz, due to arrive in Cairo on Sunday to discuss Iraq's row with Kuwait, said on Saturday he had been misunderstood.

Cairo is the largest recipient of US civil and military aid after Israel, receiving \$2.1 billion annually.

Egypt-PLO relations have long seen-sawed from hostility to warmth, echoing the shifts in Middle East power politics.

Ties

Ties were cut in 1979 when Egypt became the only Arab state to make peace with Israel. They were restored in 1983 after Syrian forces drove Arafat and his men from Tripoli in Lebanon.

In 1987 Mubarak ordered PLO offices in Cairo closed after an Egyptian delegation stormed out of a Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers because it considered a resolution on PLO-Egyptian ties too critical of Cairo.

Relations returned to a normal footing seven months later and reached a new peak of understanding in 1988, when Arafat recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

For Mubarak, that move represented a welcome endorsement of Egypt's cherished view that negotiation, not armed confrontation, holds the key to lasting Middle East peace.

Arafat became a frequent visitor to Cairo, working with Mubarak on proposals to bring Palestinians and Israelis together to discuss the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation added a sense of urgency to their efforts.

Despite strong support from US Secretary of State James Baker, the joint diplomacy stalled when Israelis formed the most rightwing government in the Jewish state's history.

Washington suspended its 18-month dialogue with the PLO after a dissident Palestinian faction launched a seaborne assault on an Israeli beach on May 30.

Israel was delighted, Egypt dismayed by the US decision.

EC to probe Israel wish for peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Three European Community foreign ministers arrive in Israel on Monday to find out if Israel's new rightwing government is serious about Middle East peace.

The overnight visit by the foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland and Luxembourg — the first major probe of the hardline government's views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — was co-ordinated with US Secretary of State James Baker.

"It quite suits the United States for the European Community to be front-runners in this," a senior European diplomat said.

Baker was involved in fruitless efforts to arrange talks between Israel and Palestinians in Cairo earlier this year.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's broad-based government collapsed in March because he refused to agree to talks. Then instead of a more liberal government emerging, as Washington hoped, Shamir assembled the most rightwing administration in Israel's history.

Visit

Italy's Gianni De Michelis, Ireland's Gerry Collins and Luxembourg's Jacques Poos will arrive late on Monday and leave for a meeting with the Arab League in Tunis early on Tuesday.

Their visit is the first test of Foreign Minister David Levy, recovering from a heart attack suffered after he took up his post last month. Baker has

invited Levy to Washington on August 9-10.

Levy had openly opposed even the reluctant steps toward peace taken by the previous government but as foreign minister he has so far avoided a confrontation with Washington.

"They're coming basically to listen, to size up Levy on the peace process," the diplomat said.

Despite Levy's rightwing image he has proved a pragmatist in the past — he voted for an Israeli military withdrawal from Lebanon in 1985 — and he believes it is important to improve Israel's tarnished reputation in the traditionally friendly West.

Aid

The United States gives some \$3 billion in annual aid to Israel and the European Community buys more than half of Israel's exports.

Israeli officials complain the EC is using economic pressure for political goals. Publicly the European Community denies it, but privately its officials say all countries use economic muscle.

The EC scaled down scientific co-operation earlier this year to show disapproval of Israeli policy towards the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who have been in revolt against the Israeli occupation for 31 months.

It also stepped up direct aid to the occupied areas, to rise fourfold to 12 million ECUs (\$15 million) by 1992.

The EC is about to appoint a representative to

oversee that aid, although vehement Israeli opposition to opening a new office in a Palestinian area means it will probably be attached to an existing EC office in Tel Aviv.

But most important for Israel is a shift in the EC approach to the Middle East, which in the past has produced declarations of principle with little influence.

Power

The EC decided it could have more impact by working closely with the United States, by far the dominant power in the region. A US-EC policy session in Brussels in June was devoted entirely to the Middle East.

"We know the United States has close contacts with the Europeans," said Mr Baker met with European colleagues on a number of occasions recently.

A senior Israeli official said when asked if the EC foreign ministers were co-ordinating with Washington.

The EC has long advocated an international conference on the Middle East and a greater role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, proposals that are anathema to Israel. US thinking may be moving nearer the EC position.

Certainly Washington will listen closely when the EC ministers report their conclusion on whether Levy is prepared to end the delays that frustrated Baker's peace efforts.

Immigration hot topic in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia, (AP): Immigration is a hot topic for just about everyone in Australia except politicians, who find it an increasingly hot potato to juggle without getting burned.

Walk into a pub or party, pick up a newspaper or turn on the television and some facet of immigration usually is being discussed, often very emotionally.

But some critics claim polarisation of the issue is keeping the government from forging a coherent immigration policy as politicians walk a fine line between being branded racist or willing to sell out the country.

The long-simmering debate reached a high boil over the past month when Prime Minister Bob Hawke tried to grapple with the status of Chinese students seeking refuge in Australia in the wake of Tiananmen Square massacre.

Hawke compromised by saying the students could stay at least four years freely, and after that would not be forced to go home. To make room for them, he cut Australia's ceiling on immigrants from 140,000 annually to 126,000 and imposed restrictions on refugees wanting to move here permanently.

The compromise, not surprisingly, made no one happy. The students said they were left in limbo with a murky future. Refugee and immigrant groups blasted any cuts in the influx quota.

Foreignist

The Australian, a national daily newspaper, said the decisions demonstrated the lack of foresight on the overall problem. It editorialised that government immigration guidelines are "a camel of a policy, a camel being a horse designed by committee."

On one hand is the argument that immigration generally has been a positive force: that an infusion of foreign blood brings needed skills, initiative, new perspectives and a generally young, eager workforce.

Critics counter that more immigrants will exacerbate pollution, unemployment, housing and other infrastructure problems. They also claim there is a trend toward ethnic enclaves instead of assimilation and express concerns that large chunks of prime land are being bought up by foreigners.

Much of the problem stems from Australia's large size and relatively small population, a combination that makes it look ideal for growth. The land area of 7,682,000 square kilometres (3,073,000 square miles) is roughly equal to the continental United States, while the population of 17 million is only 1-15th the size of America's.

But environmentalists say unless the desert can be made to bloom, Australia more appropriately should be compared with Canada, with its large tracts of almost-usable land.

A submission by the Australian Conservation Foundation to the 1987 Fitzgerald report, the last omnibus study of the immigration issue, suggested that Australia already may have surpassed optimum

number of residents.

It claims the population "is rapidly degrading the environment and is therefore not sustainable in the long run."

Much of the population is centred in the coastal cities, which also tend to be the places where immigrants settle. The Sydney and Melbourne areas already account for nearly half of Australia's population, and projections indicate they will continue to grow rapidly.

New South Wales, the state where Sydney is located, absorbed 65,000 immigrants last year, nearly triple the number in 1984. Nearly 40 per cent of all immigrants settle in Sydney, at least initially.

That has led to housing shortages and rapid expansion in the city's western suburbs. Those, in turn, have led to heavier burdens on the public transit system, as more people are forced to commute longer distances, and on other infrastructure, particularly the sewage system.

Sewage

Sydney is moving quickly to build deep-water ocean outfalls. But while construction continues, the sewage problem worsens. Studies show swimmers at the city's famed golden beaches are suffering increasing health problems due to such pollution.

Backers of high immigration levels say foreigners are being used as scapegoats for these problems by politicians who have avoided taking unpopular and expensive corrective measures.

They claim Australians have been spoiled by a relative abundance of raw materials and are now starting to pay the price for excessive use of such resources, particularly the burning of fossil fuels.

The population has increased by 150 per cent since the end of World War II as Australia expanded its population partly as a strategy to make it bigger and less susceptible to outside attack.

Some 50,000 of the new residents were refugees as the country strived for an international reputation as a home for the homeless. It remains the largest resettler of refugees per capita among major resettlement countries.

But the unexpected flow of boat people, first from Vietnam and now from Cambodia, has threatened Australia's efforts to police its borders and strained efforts to maintain its humanitarian image.

"We are the last country on Earth to regard ourselves as the first asylum country for refugees, and it's about time we changed our view of ourselves," Luke Hardy, executive director of the Refugee Council of Australia, said recently.

"Australia has tried to bathe in the luxury of going abroad to select refugees from camps and then bringing them here under fixed quotas every year," Hardy said.

"(But) we can't just pretend we can go and find our own refugees, we have to deal maturely and compassionately and methodically with refugees claiming asylum on our shores and in our cities."

The refugee issue has led to friction with neighbouring countries, particularly Indonesia, where many boat people stop en route to Australia — often because their ships are unsafe — and end up in refugee camps.

Nearly 15,000 Vietnamese are housed in one such camp on Galang, an Indonesian island south of Singapore, and the number of Cambodians is rising quickly.

Jakarta has called for help. But Hawke has said there is only so much room here, and he has said the Cambodians, in general, are not political refugees and are only jumping the immigration queue to better themselves economically.

The issue is currently at an impasse, with Hawke saying economic refugees should be sent home, and Cambodia saying they can only come back voluntarily.

While most Australians seem to feel they should be compassionate toward genuine refugees, there has been a general backlash recently against Asian migrants.

About 38 per cent of all immigrants in 1987-88 were from Asia, and some neighbourhoods in the big cities — like Cabramatta in Sydney, a Vietnamese stronghold — have become virtual ethnic enclaves.

A couple of white-supremacist groups have sprung up. Six members of the Australian Nationalists Movement will go on trial later this year in Perth for a total of 197 charges for an alleged crimes spree to drive Asians out of Australia with a campaign of terror.

Much of the resentment has been focused on the Japanese, who are buying large tracts of prime land.

"Well, if you look at the way government policy has been run over the last five or six years, the country has effectively been sent broke, and our assets have been put up for sale at bargain-basement prices relative to the yen," opposition government spokesman John Hewson said recently.

But Hewson also was typical of politicians walking the tightrope, saying that while debate is needed now on the issue of foreign investment, it must be done without race becoming an issue.

Of the 32 billion dollars (\$25.6 billion) worth of foreign investment in Australia last year, 15 billion dollars (\$12 billion) was in real estate.

The Japanese have been investing heavily on the sub-tropical resort areas along the Gold Coast, on the east coast.

Japanese investment became an issue in the March 24 election amid plans to choose a site for a so-called "city of the future" proposed by a consortium of Japanese companies.

The proposal led Andrew Peacock, the Liberal Party candidate who lost to incumbent Bob Hawke, to say that a coalition government with the national party would not accept a Japanese "enclave" in Australia. Peacock was attacked by opponents and newspapers as a "racist."

Africa OAU shifts its emphasis

ADISS ABABA, Ethiopian, (AP): With the decolonisation of Africa completed, its leaders are turning from supporting wars of liberation to ending their own internal conflicts.

Those conflicts, some decades old, have killed millions of men, women, and children, maimed countless more and driven 5 million people into exile as refugees.

For years, they were largely ignored by the Organisation of African Unity, which devoted itself to supporting guerrilla movements in South Africa and European-ruled colonies.

Internal, black-on-black conflicts were considered beyond the bounds of the continent-wide organisation. Its charter decreed no meddling in the internal affairs of member states.

But last week, for the first time since it was born in 1963, the organisation declared that ballots, not bullets, should determine the future of the continent's 550 million people.

It did not change its charter, but it clearly shifted its emphasis.

"The issue of restoring peace and stability to African countries and of dismantling the apartheid system was the dominant theme of discussion during the 26th OAU summit," the English-language daily Ethiopian Herald said in an editorial Monday. The paper is published in Addis Ababa, home of the OAU.

Since Namibia won independence from South Africa last March, there are no remaining colonies in Africa.

The OAU and the United Nations have long recognised South Africa as an independent nation. But they have campaigned for an end to that government's racial policy of apartheid, by which a white minority wields control over a voteless black majority.

The OAU in previous years has committed itself to financing guerrilla armies from the former Portuguese colony of Cape Verde to the onetime British territory of Rhodesia, now called Zimbabwe.

Last week, the three-day summit ended with the usual condemnation of apartheid. But for the first time it made no mention of continuing to support guerrilla-backed movements like the African National Congress or the Pan-Africanist Congress in South Africa.

Instead, Africa's leaders committed themselves to increasing democracy within their countries and finding peaceful solutions to civil wars convulsing the continent from the western Sahara in the far northwest to Mozambique in the southeast.

Here's a look at Africa's wars today. Angola: Portugal, the colonial power, pulled out of the agriculturally rich South West African territory in 1975, leaving three anti-colonial guerrilla armies to fight for the spoils. The MPLA (Popular Liberation Movement for Angola) triumphed, driving the other forces out of the capital of Luanda. Since then, the Marxist government in Luanda has been battling Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), which is backed by the United States.

Angolan leaders say they are confident peace talks brokered by Zaire will end the war soon. Chad: Independent from France since 1960, this landlocked desert nation in Northcentral Africa has been torn by numerous rebellions and three full-scale civil wars. Virtually all have been marked by meddling and military incursions by its northern neighbour, Libya, with whom it has a border dispute. President Hissene Habre's troops scored a major victory over the Libyans in 1987, but skirmishing continues between government forces and Libyan-backed rebels.

Ethiopia: For 29 years, Africa's longest civil war has raged in northernmost Eritrea province, where rebels of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front control virtually all of the countryside and the strategic port of Massawa, one of Ethiopia's two Red Sea harbours. The Eritreans, loosely allied with the Tigre People's Liberation Front in neighbouring Tigre province, want independence for Eritrea, once an Italian colony that was federated with Ethiopia in 1952. The Tigreans seek nothing less than the overthrow of the central government of President Mengistu Haile Maria. The separate but related conflicts and the famines they have spawned have claimed more than one million lives.

Liberia: US-educated guerrilla leader Charles Taylor has laid siege to the capital of Monrovia, his rebel force steadily increasing in number since he invaded Liberia with a handful of men last December. President Samuel Doe, who seized power in a bloody 1980 coup that ended political domination by descendants of freed American slaves, has survived at least nine attempts on his life. This time, however, he is seen as unlikely to remain in power. Thousands have been slain or wounded in what is essentially a tribal conflict.

Mozambique: After Portugal granted independence in 1975, a rebel army called the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) was raised within Mozambique by the white military chiefs of neighbouring Rhodesia. The Rhodesians sought the destabilisation of Mozambique, which at that time was the main springboard for incursions by guerrillas bent on toppling Rhodesia's white minority regime. After Rhodesia was transformed into black-ruled Zimbabwe in 1980, white-ruled South Africa took over the reins of Renamo, although it now says it has ended its support of the guerrillas. Hundreds of thousands have died and other hundreds of thousands have fled into exile from the fighting. Preliminary peace talks began last year, but no real progress has been recorded.

Somalia: Since 1969 when he grabbed power in a military coup, President Siad Barre has ruled this Horn of Africa nation with an iron hand and, say international human rights organisations, an almost unmatched brutality. Insurgents have been battling his regime in the north for the past decade and new rebel organisations sprang up in the south last year. The president has promised a referendum on a new constitution later this year and multiparty elections early in 1991.

Sudan: For seven years, southern rebels who are mainly Christian or animist have been fighting for autonomy from the Muslim-dominated central government in Khartoum. Former US president Jimmy Carter brokered peace talks last year, to no avail. As in Ethiopia, the fighting has led to periodic widespread famine and the loss of hundreds of thousands of innocent lives.

السلامة العامة

French minister not involved in arms racket

MARSEILLE, France, July 23, (UPI): A state prosecutor denied today that a security officer at the French embassy in Beirut had accused a government minister of involvement in illegal arms traffic between France and Lebanon.

Prosecutor Olivier Drapeau said officer Patrick Schaller, who was charged last week with participating in the arms-smuggling ring out of the French diplomatic mission, had stated only that the arms were shipped to France on two occasions aboard a special airplane used by Humanitarian Action Minister Bernard Kouchner.

Drapeau said Schaller told prosecutors that the arms were turned over to Kouch-

ner's security agents by Brigadier Jean-Claude Labourette, the head of security at the French embassy in Beirut and was formally charged yesterday with operating the arms-smuggling ring.

Several French newspapers reported over the weekend that Schaller had accused Kouchner, a frequent visitor to Beirut, with being involved in the arms-smuggling scheme.

In a statement released in Paris Kouchner sounded a warning against those who for political reasons try to discredit the Humanitarian Action France carries out around the world and of which she can only be proud.

The minister cut short a summer vaca-

tion on the Mediterranean island of Corsica and was expected back in Paris later today.

In a related development in the widening scandal, the government announced today that it was immediately sending a team of investigators to Beirut to look into the matter.

A government spokesman said the investigators belonged to both the foreign affairs and interior ministries, but refused to release further details.

Police searched a villa belonging to Labourette last week and confiscated three rocket-launchers, automatic pistols, and a number of AK-47 Soviet-made Kal-

ashnikov and US manufactured M-16 automatic assault rifles as well as large stocks of ammunition.

Police believe the weapons, bought cheaply on the Beirut market, were sold at huge profit to gangs in southern France. Officials believe some of the weapons may have been used in an attack on a security van in Marseille in which two officers guards were killed.

Investigators have described Labourette as the ring leader of the arms smuggling group, but it remains unclear whether higher ranking officers or even political figures were involved in the illegal operations.



French Human Rights Minister Bernard Kouchner (left) stands near Jean-Claude Labourette (right), head of the security at the French embassy in Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

PFLP-GC denies hand

Jordan kills 4 infiltrators

AMMAN, July 23, (AP): Soldiers shot and killed four armed Palestinian commandos of a dissident Damascus-based radical group after they crossed the border from Syria, police said yesterday.

A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the "heavily armed" commandos "illegally crossed into Jordan" through the northern border.

The official said the commandos carried documents identifying them as members of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command headed by Ahmed Jibril.

In Amman, a PFLP-GC official denied his group was involved. "We deny the Jordanian police report," said Mustafa Khmyes, a member of the group's central council.

An army spokesman told the official Petra news agency that four unidentified commandos infiltrated into Jordan from an area "usually used by drug and arms smugglers," two miles (three kilometres) west of the Ramtha border post.

The desert-like area has been used by traffickers to smuggle their goods through Jordan to be shipped onward to neighbouring Arab states, primarily oil-rich Gulf countries.

The military spokesman told Petra the commandos were killed when "our men warned them to stop and they did not respond, which forced our army to open fire at them and kill them."

He said the infiltration was at 10 pm (1900 GMT) Saturday. Khmyes of the PFLP-GC said: "Our group did not infiltrate into Jordan and we did not plan any assassinations in Jordan. We are not responsible for this attack."

"These people are probably not members of our party and they might have been carrying false identity cards of the PFLP-GC Khmyes said."

"Our policy is to spare Jordan from (involvement in) any military attacks against Israel and not to infiltrate into this territory or use this land for any illegal purposes."

"I ask the Jordanian government to present us the identity cards and disclose the names of the commandos who were killed during the infiltration."

The police official refused to give the exact location where the infiltration took place on the Jordanian-Syrian border.

But he said the incident took place late Saturday night and the group were shot "a few minutes after they actually crossed into Jordanian territory."

"An army patrol, monitoring the borders, saw them infiltrating into Jordan... army officers only started to shoot at them after they were warned to stop and they persisted," the police official said.

■ Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran said martial law, in force since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, would end when a military court settles the Petra Bank bankruptcy or immediately if parliament wishes.

■ A high-ranking Soviet official held talks with Jordanian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Kasim on a number of regional and international issues.

■ Lawmakers have empowered a parliamentary committee to investigate government corruption cases including four involving former ministers.

■ Leftist political activists yesterday announced the formation of a new political bloc which groups all major leftist political parties and independents.



Jubilant Shimon Peres (top) killing his thumb after defeating challenger Yitzhak Rabin (below) in critical vote on who should lead the fight against Israeli right-wing government. (Reuters wirephoto)

Peres defeats Rabin in leadership contest

Shamir govt takes sigh of relief at Labour vote result

TEL AVIV, July 23, (Agencies): Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres has defeated arch-rival Yitzhak Rabin in a bruising contest that appears to open the way to long leadership struggle while strengthening Israel's right-wing government.

Peres scored the surprise win yesterday in a Labour Party Central Committee vote on who should lead the fight against Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party. Public opinion polls say Rabin is the only Labour leader who can defeat Likud.

"Likud is very happy tonight because Shimon Peres is the weaker

within Labour until elections next year, relieving Likud of an effective parliamentary opposition."

Peres led Labour out of a coalition with Likud in March and then toppled Shamir over his refusal to accept a US proposal for talks with Palestinians. The talks in Cairo were to prepare Israeli-sponsored elections in the occupied territories.

Peres was given the first chance to form a new government devoted to the peace talks but was humiliated when two religious parliamentarians withdrew their support at the last minute.

Within three months of an historic parliamentary win, Labour was in opposition for the first time since 1984 and Shamir was back in power, at the head of the most hardline government in Israeli history and on a potential collision course with Washington, Israel's guardian ally.

Analysts said Peres's win did not erase his image among Israelis as an electoral loser.

He has failed to win a clear victory in four general elections since replacing then-prime minister Rabin as Labour head in 1977.

On July 12 Rabin won the first round when 60 of the 100 members in the Labour executive backed his request to advance the timing of the leadership contest. It recommended the 1,400-strong Central Committee should take the same decision.

The seven-hour meeting was at times a hissing match between Peres supporters, who made personal attacks on Rabin, and Rabin backers who argued Peres was well past his prime.

"Peres was a great leader in his time, not today..." said parliamentarian Shimon Shetret, a Rabin supporter.

"Even Moses accepted the announcement he must quit. But Shimon Peres refuses."

Several Labour member have urged both Peres, 66, and Rabin, 68, to step down with dignity to allow a younger generation to take over the party reins.

Four younger Labour Party leaders, including former army chief-of-staff Mordechai Bar, 60, have said they will join the party leadership contest.

Peres suggested yesterday he would end his 13-year stewardship in favour of a younger, fresher leader.

Peres, a protégé of Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion, indicated he still might be in the race for the party leadership if Rabin sought the post.

"Since I am an old war-horse, I want to advise some things to those who will come after me," Peres told the committee members gathered at Tel Aviv's exhibition grounds. "When we started the (internal party) struggle, several young and promising comrades came to me and said, 'you don't have a chance. Get out with honour.'"

"I want to advise those young people. Don't give up so easily," said Peres, whose comments were met with applause.

opponent. We believe the polls," a senior government official told Reuters.

"Likud feared a Rabin victory because he would have pushed for a unity government," he said. "Shamir is growing to like the new government. He is less interested in having a unity government and thus was less interested in seeing Rabin win."

The 54 per cent to 46 per cent vote against Rabin's motion to settle the leadership contest this month will touch off a protracted power struggle

Palestinians kill 2 collaborators

'Israel speaks with two voices'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 23, (AP): Israel speaks with two voices on human rights — a sweet one to the international community and a shrill one justifying repressive actions in the occupied lands, a legislator said today.

Amnon Rubinstein, member of parliament from the liberal Shinui Party, said the way to ensure basic human rights for Palestinians under occupation was to incorporate the four Geneva conventions into Israeli law.

Israel has signed the conventions and declared repeatedly that it observes their provisions. But the conventions are not binding because, unlike in other countries, they were never made law, Rubinstein said.

The conventions are a series of treaties signed in Geneva, Switzerland, between 1864 and 1949 on the treatment of combatants and civilians in wartime.

A bill to adopt the conventions as law will be debated Wednesday by parliament. Rubinstein, sponsor of the measure, told a news conference that it can succeed if the left-leaning Labour Party requires its members to vote in favour.

"The Israeli government speaks with two voices," Rubinstein said, noting that the first voice declares the government follows the four Geneva convention on the rights of civilians in occupied lands.

In its second voice, Rubinstein said, "the government doesn't agree to apply the convention concerning basic humanitarian issues, such as house demolitions and deportations."

During the 31-month Palestinian uprising, Israel

has demolished 300 homes and sealed 162 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to punish Palestinian activists. The vast majority of suspects had not been tried.

Israel also deported 60 Palestinians as uprising leaders. It argues that while mass deportations are banned by the Geneva conventions, expulsions of a few individuals are permissible.

Meanwhile, masked Palestinians in the occupied territories backed to death one alleged collaborator and strangled another today.

The body of one victim was discovered in the West Bank town of Qalqilya and the second was killed in the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp, the army command said.

In Qalqilya, Arab reports said, five Palestinians abducted 26-year-old Ahmad Atturi from his home late last night and then stabbed and hacked him to death. Atturi, suspected by Arabs of co-operating with the Shin Bet security service, was beaten by masked men six months ago and then released.

The victim in Rafah was 22-year-old Issam Nawajaha, who was found strangled to death on the street after being seized by masked Palestinians, Arab reporters said.

Nawajaha, who worked in Israel as a day labourer, was accused of aiding Israeli authorities, camp residents said.

Also in Gaza, the army command arrested members of a cell from PLO chief Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction suspected of firing on an army patrol in February 1990, a military spokesman said.

Shamir govt's first encounter with EC

Focus on peace plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 23, (AP): Israel's new right-wing government has its first encounter with European Community leaders this week at a time of increasing European pressure for Israel to move forward toward Middle East peace.

The visit starting today by the "troika" of EC foreign ministers is to focus on various proposals for resolving the Israelis' standoff with the Palestinians. It comes as Israel is seeking trade concessions from Europe, and European leaders are backing a US peace plan that the government here is resisting.

Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has called for improving relations with Europe. But he admits it won't be easy.

"We have a lot of problems with Europe, and we have to try to explain our positions, straighten out (the problems) and move closer," Shamir told reporters last week.

At their summit in Dublin in June, European Community leaders renewed their call for an international peace conference that would include participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israel refuses any dealings with the PLO and has repeatedly rejected an international peace conference, believing such a meeting could force concessions on the Jewish state.

After their visit here, the three foreign ministers will travel to Tunis on Tuesday for talks with the Arab League, whose current president is Farouk Kaddoumi, chief of the PLO's political department.

The visiting foreign ministers, led by Gianni de Michelis of Italy, are to meet with Shamir and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

Italy now holds the rotating presidency of the EC. The troika also includes foreign ministers Gerard Collins of Ireland, whose country last held the presidency, and Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, which will take the post next.

It is the first official visit by representatives of the 12-nation European Community since Shamir formed his right-wing government in June.

J. Gwyn Morgan, the EC delegate to Israel, said in an interview that "the purpose is to discuss with the new Israeli government... their ideas about the peace process and the possibility of movement."

Morgan said the community was co-ordinating its peace process with the United States and that the visit "was discussed in great detail" with US Secretary of State James Baker.

Danger of war greater: Arens

NEW YORK, July 23, (Reuters): Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens told American Jewish leaders yesterday that Israel was very concerned about Iraqi threats and said the possibility of war was greater now than in the recent past, a US Jewish leader said.

According to the US Jewish leader, Arens told US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney during a three-day US visit that "glasnost has not come to the Middle East and the danger of war is higher now than in recent years."

Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, also quoted the defence minister as expressing to Cheney "strong concern about Iraqi threats."

Reich said Arens also voiced concern about the military relationship between Iraq and Jordan, which has the longest border with Israel of any Arab neighbour.

Uriel Palti, a spokesman for the Israel consulate who also attended the meeting, quoted Arens as saying Israel's Arab foes were investing seven times the amount Israel was investing in developing and purchasing arms.

"One cannot expect Israel to swim alone in this hostile sea," Palti quoted Arens as saying, adding that the strengthening of strategic co-operation between Israel and the United States was an "important cornerstone in Israel's deterrent capability to avoid war in the Middle East." Arens talks with Cheney on Friday were the highest level contacts between the United States and Israel since last month's formation of Israel's new administration, the most right-wing in the country's history.

Iran carpet export hit by dull designs

NICOSIA, July 23, (Reuters): Iranian carpet exports are being badly hit by a combination of smuggling, dull design and shoddy workmanship, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

It said the exports played a key role in plans to make the economy less dependent on oil and six million people worked in the industry.

But it quoted Mohammad Reza Abed, managing director of Iran Carpet Company, as complaining of a lack of raw materials, the use of derivative designs, a shortage of skilled manpower and no quality control.

Mohammad Ali Tayrani, deputy commerce minister for parliamentary affairs, urged training courses for weavers and the removal of economic obstacles facing manufacturers, IRNA said.

"If we are supposed to earn \$18 million from carpet exports in the ongoing five-year development plan, we should get back our place on international markets as soon as possible," Tayrani said.

Karim Ansari, a member of the union of carpet exporters, said the industry could be revived by letting every foreign-bound traveller take a hand-woven carpet out with him.

IRNA quoted a customs officer as saying some 70 per cent of exportable carpets were smuggled out by sea last year, greatly damaging the export drive.

Israel eases ban on Jordan river traffic

AMMAN, July 23, (UPI): Jordanian authorities said today that Israel has eased restrictions on Arab travellers crossing bridges over the Jordan river, reducing a backlog of people who had been waiting to enter the Jordanian side from the Israeli-occupied territories.

Cel Hamad Al Attar, commander of Jordan's bridge guards, said Israel had allowed some 2,000 Palestinians to cross the King Hussein-Allenby bridge by midday today, and another 300 were expected to cross before the bridge closed later in the day.

Postcard campaign in United States

British bids to release hostages

BEIRUT, July 23, (UPI): Visiting British parliamentarians spoke today with House Speaker Hussein Al Hussein, officials said, but one of the lawmakers denied speculation the delegation sought help in the hostage crisis.

The officials said Conservative Party deputies Robert Adley, Colin Shepherd and Tim Rathbone met with Hussein at his residence in west Beirut on the Lebanese situation.

Hussein, a prominent Shiite politician who has a good relationship with Syria, held later a banquet in honour of the delegates at the seaside Summerland Hotel.

The delegation arrived in Muslim west Beirut yesterday on a so-called fact-finding mission, but analysts believed the visit would touch on the plight of Western hostages, notably British captives, held in Lebanon by Muslim extremists.

Adley, reached by telephone, denied reports the delegation was seeking freedom for Western hostages, saying, "our visit has nothing to do with the hostages' issue whatsoever."

In London, the Independent newspaper reported that Gerard Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary for the Labour Party, travelled to Syria to try to break the deadlock over the British hostages held in Lebanon.

The envoy would ask the Syrian government to intervene and speed up the hostages' release, the Independent said.

"This is not in any sense an attempt to negotiate with Syrians," the Independent quoted Kaufman as saying.

Britain severed diplomatic relations with Syria in 1986 after it found evidence implicating Damascus in an attempt to blow up an Israeli El Al passenger plane at London's Heathrow airport.

The Independent quoted Kaufman as saying he would not be officially representing the British government.

"But it seems to me that the release of the American hostages and reports in the press of the possible release of (Irishman) Brian Keenan mean that it would be useful to see whether the Syrian government can assist with the release of British hostages," he declared.

The simultaneous visits to both Lebanon and Syria came after fruitless efforts earlier this month to release Keenan.

Organisers of a postcard campaign seeking the release of US hostages in Lebanon are asking the public to send a new wave of cards to the White House.

The first campaign — in which 450,000 postcards were mailed to President George Bush — was started last year to show the administration that the public cares about the hostages and wants them released, said Anne Zickl, who is running the campaign for the journalists' committee to free Terry Anderson.

"We do believe that the heightened awareness across the country helped bring about the release of Polhill and Reed," Zickl said.

Abu Nidal, a leading opponent of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, planned the kidnapping of two Swiss International Red Cross workers last October and holds them in the Chouf region, according to a Swiss newspaper quoting a top Arafat aide.

The Neue Zuercher Zeitung newspaper reported Abu Iyad also said records confirming Abu Nidal's involvement in the abduction were found in a PLO raid against his group in the Rachidiyah camp near Tyus last month.

British nurse tells how she nearly tried to escape just minutes after sentence

LONDON, July 23, (Reuters): British nurse Daphne Parish, freed by Iraq after serving four months of a 15-year jail sentence for helping executed journalist Farzad Bazoft, said she nearly tried to escape just minutes after being sentenced.

In an interview with the Observer newspaper 53-year-old Parish, who flew back to London last week, also said she was kicked and threatened with torture by her interrogators in an effort to make her confess.

She said interrogators kicked her, threatened her with a knife and rubber

hose and told her, "We hope that you will die."

Parish drove London-based Iranian journalist Farzad Bazoft to a military base which he was investigating for a story for the Observer. Bazoft was hanged in Iraq in March for spying.

She said Bazoft had not acted like a spy. "He did everything openly, in full sight of passers-by, including soldiers."

Parish cried as she remembered her last moments with Bazoft after an Iraqi judge delivered their sentences in Arabic with no translation.

"As we were taken from the courtroom I saw Farzad was as white as a sheet and he asked the interpreter: 'Did they say they were going to hang me?' The interpreter laughed and said, 'No. The judge said they are not going to hang you.'"

Parish said that in a carpark before being taken back to prison their armed guard walked off and turned his back on them.

"I stood amazed, this was a real chance. Just 30 yards (metres) away I saw freedom, a dash for it into the crowded streets. Better risk a bullet in the back, I

thought, than 20 years in jail, but Farzad was lost in thought. He couldn't move or speak and the chance was gone."

Parish said she worked out her own escape plan but her surprise release, after a plea from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, came before she had a chance to put it into action.

Bazoft might have been spared if he had refused to make the confession his captors demanded, a published report said.

Bazoft "believed his interrogators when they told him he would be released if he confessed," reported the Observer.

He held on to this belief until he heard the sentence of the court that he would be hanged, the report said.

Parish refused his urging to make a joint confession and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

The Observer, which last week interviewed Mrs Parish about her 10 months under arrest and in prison, said that when she and Bazoft met in the interrogation centre where they were being questioned, the journalist told her: "Look. We'll probably be flying out in a day or so if we get these last points sorted out."

EVENTS

Social Roundup

Al hosts Khan

INDIAN Minister of Communications Arif Mohammad Khan's visit to Kuwait has created quite a stir among the Indian community. The Kuwait chapter of the Non-Resident Indian Forum last night held a meeting with Khan at the Meridian Hotel to present some points of view regarding the concessions that NRIs are seeking from the Indian government.

Yesterday afternoon, Air-India's Manager P.R. Kanga hosted a luncheon reception for the visiting dignitary at the Sheraton Hotel. Some prominent members of the Indian community were present to shake hands, and exchange pleasantries with Khan, a man of principles.

Cautioned the host: "Al fares are taboo." Mrs Kanga, in a blood red sari (I was told she is rarely seen in saris) welcomed the guests, giving them a taste of Indian hospitality in the ambience of the Italian Riccardo Restaurant. Also extending customary courtesy was Julie, Al's airport assistant

manager, who has been handling the post for over 13 years. "Oh, I love the job; and everything about this country is just so wonderful," she said in-between coaxing guests to wipe the dishes clean.

Among the guests was the philanthropist-businessman K.T.B. Menon, who somehow manages to keep a low profile but towers above the rest when he is in a room. Also present were Mrs and Sam Alphonso; Mrs and Joe Monteiro, Mohammad Merchant, in his (oh!) so spotless suit, Rajan Nireswalia, Indian First Secretary R.P. Singh and his wife, Krishna, and a host of other dignitaries.

George Tharakan, former assistant manager, Air-India, Kuwait, and presently manager, Trivandrum, handled us with his customary flair. He was in Kuwait to wind up home and say a final farewell to his friends.

Indian Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja and Mrs Budhiraja also graced the occasion. - FA



The Indian minister flanked by Mrs and Mr Budhiraja; standing: host Kanga and Mrs Kanga.



Pakistan's State Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ahmad Saeed Awan (third left) with Pakistan Ambassador Zahid Saeed and other guests at last week's reception hosted by the envoy at his home during the minister's unofficial visit to Kuwait.



Mathur farewell.



Edwin Dass and Naseer Khan



Indrajeet on stage.

Musical farewell

A MUSICAL evening was held last week to say farewell to Indian Second Secretary S.M. Mathur at the Indian Embassy Hall. It was held by the Sur Sangeet group and Wilfred Daniel and his wife.

Mathur leaves Kuwait shortly to take up a posting at the Indian mission in Islamabad.

Abdul Gafour Mukkadam welcomed guests. Urdu poet and author Noor Parkar compered the show.

Performers included sitar player Edwin Dass of Sur Sangeet, Charlie Dass, Lakshmi Raju, Indrajeet, Sylvia, Lata John, Rosebud Daniel, Indrajeet, Thakur, Anwar, Kavita, Shariar, Dayal Singh, M. Qassim, M. Iqbal, Paul and Dawood Sheikh.

The musicians included Paul, Robert, Shankar Raju, Raghu, Chandra, Wilfred Daniel and Naseer Ahmed Khan.



Arif Mohammad Khan (second left) talks to Sam Alphonso, Joe Monteiro and other guests.



Steve Michael (second left) and Sheryl Pereira performing a duet; some members of the band are also seen in the background.

Hypnotic African sounds

By Abdul Razzak
Arab Times staff

HYPNOTIC African tribal music, the sounds of the oppressed, kept the audience enraptured during a four-hour concert presented by the Afro-Arab Friendship Group on Sunday night.

Despite a moderate delay, it was worth waiting for "Let's Rock and Reggae" to kick off, and when the much-talked about gig finally started, it had us swaying to their electrifying music.

Out of the 30 more tracks played, 15 numbers were their own composition. The music was a blend of rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae and rock.

After the break, a young singer performed "Hello" by Lionel Richie, followed by a selection of Bob Marley's music. It's remarkable how much influence Bob's music is having on all sections of society.

Lead vocalist Steve Michael kept us enthralled with an exceptionally good reggae music. Sheryl Pereira kept us spellbound with some blues numbers and the songs of Gloria Gaynor "I Will Survive" and "Let It Be".

The group's own compositions — a fusion of Bob's music — was rather innovative.

If there was any irritant, it was the behaviour of some unruly elements, who constantly interrupted an otherwise fine performance. A lady organiser did her best to keep them in check.

Phil Daniels co-ordinated the show. She said a lack of coverage was one of the main problems they faced. However, they do get help from Imad Habib and the Mahdi Habib Establishment.

Plans are underway to hold an open-air concert in November at the Al Qadisiya Stadium. It will be held in aid of Eritrean refugees.



Tina Mathews (centre) did a reggae dance routine.

WHAT'S ON

Social

Summer Bazaar

July 25: All vendors of the Ladies Friendship Association summer bazaar are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday at the Crystal Room, Kuwait Regency Palace, 5-7 pm. For details contact Manal 574-9179.

Aug. 3: The Ladies Friendship Association's Big Summer Bazaar will be held in the Exhibition Hall at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel from 9 am to 9 pm. Gift items, home products, handicrafts, toys, clothes and much more. Raffle with attractive prizes. Surprise for children. All are welcome. For details call Manal 574-9179.

Approb 'Who's Who' directory The Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is planning to publish a "Who's Who" directory of prominent Pakistani professionals and businessmen resident in Kuwait by January 1991. The directory aims at providing information about all Pakistanis proficient and distinguished in their professions and businesses.

Data forms are available free of cost from Approb executive board members and other locations. For further details contact Approb on Tel. No. 2425315, Fax 5323751, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024 Salmiya, Kuwait.

A copy of the directory will be given free of charge to all individuals whose names will appear in the directory.

Filipino expats survey

The office of the welfare officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is launching an initial information campaign to conduct a survey of Filipino workers in Kuwait.

This will cover statistical data on the number of Filipino workers employed in the private companies and government institutions. It will also include such information as job classifications, tenure of contracts, duration of residence and other information about the workers.

The Filipino Workers Social Centre (FWSC) at the Philippine embassy is also inviting volunteers for its various social and welfare projects designed to minimise the mounting problems of overseas contract workers — thereby ensuring the general welfare of Filipinos.

The official survey form can be obtained from welfare officer, Alejandro Samia Santos at the following tel. Nos. 5329315, 5329316, 5329317, 5329318 & 5329319.

LIL

July 30: 10 am to 12 noon. LIL will hold a newcomer's coffee morning on Monday at the Sheraton Hotel, Mezzanine floor. Ladies new to LIL or Kuwait are welcome. For details contact Janet 2434941.

Summerbelle '90

Aug 2: United Goans Centre will hold Summerbelle '90 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. For reservations call Tony, 2612024; Cyril, 2523920; Joe, 5655140.

Filipino rock opera

July 27: *Kailangan ka ni maria* If you have the talent to sing and dance and act, you may be one of the performers required in *Maria makiling ... isang rock opera*, a musical play to be presented by Kamay (Kalipunan ng Mapaglikhang Pinoy sa Kuwait) in co-operation with the Filipino Cultural Club (FCC) and the Philippine embassy on October 19, 1990 at the Kuwait Ice Skating Rink Theatre. The show is a folkloric stage play which will feature slow and hard rock songs, composed and adapted to dramatise the story, a Filipino rock band to play the music and some interpretative cultural dances.

Interested parties may join the audition on July 27, Friday at the Mabuhay Restaurant Ballroom from 4 pm to 8 pm. For further details, please contact any Kamay officer at their after-six headquarters, Mabuhay Restaurant.

At the SAS Bistretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

At the Boom: Kuwaiti experience: charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet. Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

Hotels

At the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Coffee Shop: open for early morning breakfast; also serves lunch and dinner.

Lobby Cafe: offers refreshments and snacks. Babyton Gardens: features fresh fruit juices and refreshments.

At the Meridian Al Fingari: open from 9 am to 11 pm daily; it offers a wide range of refreshments. Al Waha: fears cool refreshments; open from 8 am to 9 pm, Saturday to Thursday.

At the International Fallaka: situated on the 19th floor, overlooking the coastline, it offers international cuisine; live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Fridays.

La Palma: offers buffet as well as a la carte. Family style brunch on Fridays. Ket: offers Japanese dining in an oriental atmosphere. La Patisserie: selection of snacks; pianist in the evenings. Al Waha: ice cream promotion featuring different flavours, until August 1990.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.40 Iflah Ya Simsim: a programme for children
10.10 Good Morning
10.15 Waad Nahaar: Arabic serial, featuring Azza Kamal, Mustafa Fahmi
11.15 Sabah Al Khair
12.00 Al Ma'sara: Arabic serial, starring Jamil Awad, Juliet Awad, Abeer Essa
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.30 Cartoons
2.00 Al Sanafir: cartoon serial
2.30 Surkhat Nadam: Gulf serial, starring Maryam Saleh, Ali Hassan
3.30 Masrah Al Muwahib: Talented People's Theatre
4.15 Huwaar Wa Nagma: variety programme, presented by Hanan Al Saei
5.15 Cartoons
5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
6.00 Variety
6.30 Kan'a Ma Kan'a: children's serial
7.30 Songs
8.00 Al Anes Wal Jalees: focus on Arab literature, Tonight, Alif Laila Wa Laila
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Zaera: Arabic serial, featuring Samiha Ayoub, Salah Qabil, Shireen, Ablaah Kamel
11.00 Umm Al Arousa: Arabic feature film, starring Samira Ahmed, Imad Hamdi, Tahya Karioka, Hassan Yusuf...
12.20 News Summary
12.25 World News via Satellite
1.40 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Chic and Dale's Rescue Team: A cartoon series
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: A new way to play hide and seek. Activities and ideas for children: early teens
7.00 International Overdoorsman: "Exotic animals of the World." A look at the activities held by the animal protection association in the US to protect wildlife from extinction. Documentary.
7.30 Kate and Allie: "Wanted: One Husband." A rich woman offers Allie US\$30,000 to find a man similar to her husband in every respect. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law
8.45 Border Town
9.00 Horizon: "Legacy of a volcano." A group of scientists attempt to restore life at St Helen Volcano. Documentary.
10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Better shop around." The cousins win a prize at the supermarket. Their problems begin. Comedy.
10.30 The Fortunes of War
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine: "D'Actualite/Closedown"
10.30 Late night film: "Cave in." A group of people are stuck in a cave 3,000 feet deep after it caves in.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine: "D'Actualite/Closedown"

Please note that Kuwait television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra
Al Salmiya
Halawa Al Rooh (Arabic)
Starring: Kamal Shinnawi, Safiya Al Omari

Al Hamra
Taht Al Sifr (Arabic)
Starring: Najla Fathi, Salah Saadani

Drive-In
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra

Al Firdous
Pyaar Ke Naam Qurban (Hindi)
Starring: Mithun Chakraborty, Dimple Kapadia

Fahad Open-Air
Abhimanyu (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Al Fahad (Arabic)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tunisia's balance of payments hit by oil and fertiliser prices

N. African leaders to study creation of Maghreb common market

ALGIERS, Algeria, July 23, (AP): The leaders of five North African countries ended a two-day summit today by agreeing to study creating a common customs service and agricultural market.

The measures taken by the heads of state of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania pushed the regional bloc they created 18 months ago, the Union of Arab Maghreb, toward a more integrated economy.

An end-of-summit communiqué said agreements had been reached to encourage cross-border investment and to study the

details of creating a common customs service and agriculture policy.

On foreign policy, the leaders agreed to "morally, materially and diplomatically" support the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They also urged Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to defuse the war of words between Iraq and Kuwait over oil prices.

Other details of decisions reached during the closed-door talks were not immediately available.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, who took over the union's rotating sixth-month presidency in June from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, hosted the gathering.

Since creating the union last year, the five countries have agreed to waive passport checks at airports for their nationals, along the lines currently used within the 12-nation European Economic Community.

Ben Ali said Saturday that the union would ask the EEC to study the debt burdens of the Maghreb countries and review its aid policies toward the region.

One of the long-term goals of the union is to

create a common economic market. Chadli would like one by the end of the decade.

In recent months, the five nations have discussed creating a single union of Arab Maghreb airline and expanding rail and road transportation links between their countries.

Their foreign ministers have also encouraged expanded dialogue and co-operation with the EEC.

Low prices for oil and fertilisers and a worse than expected tourist season are straining Tunisia's 1990 balance of payments. Economy and Finance Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi said in an interview published

yesterday. "These weak points, which are already noticeable in the trade balance and in foreign exchange reserves, obviously call for attention," he told the government daily La Presse.

Ghannouchi said the fall in the price of crude oil, to \$14 a barrel recently from 20 at the start of the year, had cost Tunisia 90 million dinars (\$101 million) in the first six months of 1990. Tunisia exports 60,000 barrels a day.

Prices had fallen 15 per cent in the chemical fertiliser market, he said. Exports of phosphates and phosphate derivatives were worth

476 million dinars (\$520 million) in 1989.

In tourism, the results for the first few months of the year were poorer than expected, as in most Mediterranean countries. He gave no figures but the government had forecast a one to two per cent increase over 1989, when 3.2 million people visited.

Ghannouchi said recent pay rises might push up inflation, running at between seven and eight per cent for the past two years.

Public-sector employees have received salary increases of up to 27 per cent, spread over three years, their first for several years, and there has been a series of strikes for higher rises.

Slow growth: AL report

Low oil prices hurt all Arabs

ABU DHABI, July 23, (Reuters): Low oil prices hurt the people of all Arab states, and, in a seeming paradox, hit those in non-oil producing countries hardest, according to an Arab League economic report to be published this week.

Despite efforts to diversify, "oil revenues remained the main sources of hard currency for oil and non-oil Arab states," the 21-member Arab League said in its annual economic report for 1989.

Figures in the report reflect not this year's fall in oil prices but a previous glut in 1988, when oil sold for \$14 a barrel and the combined

gross domestic product of the Arab states shrank eight per cent.

But many of the report's comments clearly apply as well to the effect of this year's conflict in Opec.

"Instability in the world oil market and prices has greatly affected the economies of producers especially Arab countries," said the report obtained by Reuters on Monday.

"The fall in real wages especially in non-oil countries has started to affect medium-income people. This will severely hurt development in the long run."

Britain's trade gap widens to £1.36b

LONDON, July 23, (UPI): Britain's trade deficit rose during June to £1.36 billion (\$2.47 billion), compared to £1.32 billion (\$2.41 billion) the previous month, the Central Statistical Office announced today.

Officials said the visible deficit was £1.56 billion (\$2.83 billion). Invisibles earnings for intangibles such as insurance, tourism and services, accounted for £200 million (\$362.7 million), giving a June current account deficit of £1.36 billion (\$2.47 billion), they said.

Officials reported imports in June dropped to £10.2 billion (\$18.5 billion), 2.1 per cent lower than May.

Exports fell 2.8 per cent to £8.64 billion (\$15.7 billion), they said.

The £1.36 billion figure was "in line with market expectations, and brought the second quarter current account deficit to £4.3 billion (\$7.8 billion), compared to £4.6 billion (\$8.3 billion) for the second quarter one year ago.

Economists said the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would have to reduce the imports further if it wants to reduce the deficit.

"The 12 per cent figure is good but we really cannot expect to see an improvement in the trade gap until import levels are brought under control. 3.5 per cent is still too high," said Philip Turner, an economist for the Kleinwort Benson Group.

The June deficit brought the year's total to about £9.8 billion (\$17.8 billion), and exceeds the government's forecast of £15 billion for the entire year.

"We're going to have to see a marked and sustained improvement in imports and exports to achieve the 15 billion mark," said David Smith of Williams de Broes. "We think it is more likely to be around the 17 to 18 billion mark."

He said the recent surge in the pound would hinder exports by making them more expensive while making imports cheaper, and so widen the trade gap further.

"The strong pound could see Britain losing export orders in the long run, but it would make imports cheaper again, and with wages increasing quite considerably at the moment it does not look good for the British economy," he said.



Diving gear

Swimming instructor Tomoko Sato shows off a new, enriched oxygen breathing apparatus, lightweight diving gear made by Japan Oxygen Co. for more compact marine leisure. The tube weighs less than 1.6 kg, has tiny oxygen cartridges, and enables divers to stay underwater for ten minutes, to a maximum depth of five metres. (Reuters wirephoto)

Foreign investment in China drops in '90

Japanese decision welcomed

BEIJING, July 23, (Reuters): Foreign investment in China fell sharply in the first half of this year but an easing of foreign sanctions, imposed after last year's military crackdown, should mean growth in coming months, a Chinese official said today.

Liu Xiangdong, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, welcomed Japan's recent decision to permit lending under a \$5.6 billion loan package frozen after the crackdown.

He called on other major industrial nations, which also imposed curbs on official lending to China after the army crushed a democracy movement in Beijing on June 4, 1989, to lift their sanctions.

Liu said the number of new foreign investment projects approved during the first half of the year fell 8.1 per cent from a year earlier to 2,784, and their

total contracted value slumped 22 per cent to \$2.35 billion.

He blamed the slump, which occurred despite a steep rise in investment from Taiwan, partly on what he called distorted reports by Western media on the political unrest last year.

Liu also linked the decline to greater selectiveness by provincial governments in the type of investment they permitted, as well as to an austerity programme that succeeded in checking inflation but choked off funds to Chinese and foreign companies.

He quoted ministry statistics as showing imports during the first six months of this year fell 23.7 per cent from a year earlier to \$13.33 billion.

Exports during the January-June period rose 21.7 per cent to \$24.5 billion, according to the ministry's figures.

Fewer than half the Arab countries are oil producers but the economies of the rest are affected by oil prices as they depend on aid, investments and remittances from producer countries.

The report was prepared jointly by the Arab League secretariat, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund.

The report said oil prices fell to \$14 a barrel in 1988 from 17.3 dollars in 1987 and despite an increase in Arab output by 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd), oil earnings dropped to \$64 billion from 67 billion.

Total revenues fell by 3.4 per cent to \$119.6 billion and expenditure by 7.5 per cent to \$154 billion.

As a result, the report said the combined Arab Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell in 1988 to \$362 billion from \$390 billion in 1987, when it rose by 3.3 per cent due to an improvement in oil prices.

It said the 1988 decline depressed per capita income in all Arab nations, though it remained relatively high in oil producers.

Investments dropped to \$84 billion in 1988 from \$88.6 billion, and 65.4 billion took place in the key oil producers Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states.

"This was coupled with a sharp decline in remittances and other cash flow to the countries which suffer from debts, thus further sapping their hard currency reserves," the report said.

In contrast, the farming sector expanded by 12 per cent to \$38.8 billion in 1988, mainly due to good weather.

"Arab states remain largely dependent on food imports, with an accumulating bill of \$100 billion since the early 1980s threatening the future of Arab food security," it said.

Saudi riyal market slow

NICOSIA, July 23, (Reuters): The Saudi riyal interbank deposit market saw little activity in either short dates or fixed dates on Monday, dealers said.

The low level of business was due to the closing of Bahraini banks for the Islamic new year, said one dealer.

Rates were largely unchanged from those quoted Sunday, although three months was quoted slightly firmer at 7-7/8-7-3/4 per cent. One month was quoted at 7-11/16-7-9/16, and six months at 7-15/16-7-13/16.

The spot riyal was quoted around 3.7504/8 to the dollar.

Other markets affected NY stocks plunge

NEW YORK, July 23, (AP): An unexpected plunge in stock prices spooked Wall Street today with a drop of more than 100 points in the Dow Jones industrial average in the first 90 minutes of trading.

The Dow average, which had flirted with a record 3,000 close last week, tumbled 107 points to the 2,850 level by midmorning before regaining about 30 points of the loss by noon. At that time (1600 GMT) it stood at 2,887.62, down 73.52 from Friday's close.

"It just scared the hell out of everyone," said John Eberly, head of equity trading at the Chicago Corp. "It caught our attention."

The number of declining issues swamped advances by 8-to-1 on the New York stock exchange, where trading was active.

Many brokers were shaken by the sudden movements, which were aggravated by computerised selling strategies known as programme trading. Federal regulators were monitoring the situation.

"We're aware of the situation and watching it closely," said John Heine, a spokesman for the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington.

The swift sell-off caused a brief automatic halt in the Standard and Poor's 500 stock-index futures contract, an important influence on stock prices, traded in the Chicago futures markets.

The halt was triggered by a "circuit breaker" mechanism put in place by the financial markets in the wake of the crash of Oct 19, 1987, when the Dow average fell a record 508 points.

Brokers blamed the market's latest weakness on a number of causes, ranging from disappointing corporate earnings reports of leading US companies to the uncertain outlook for interest rates and the economy.

Oil rose by 10 cents a barrel in early trading to

20.16 dollars a 42-gallon barrel on the New York Mercantile exchange.

In the \$200 billion market for high yield bonds known as junk bonds trading almost came to a halt Monday morning while traders waited to see whether stock prices would recover from their steep slide.

Declining stock prices drove gold prices higher in New York. Gold for spot delivery rose 7.00 dollars to 367.75 dollars an ounce in what brokers called a flight for safety from the stock market.

The US dollar declined in thin trading in New York, dropping to 1.6304 German marks from 1.6375 marks in London earlier in the day and 1.6385 marks in New York late Friday.

In London, share prices were higher at midday Monday, rallying from earlier falls on the back of a strong futures market and better than expected trade figures.

Dealers said the September Financial Times-stock exchange 100 index futures contract was driving the cash market higher as it opened up a 75-point premium over equities. Normally the premium is about 45 points, dealers said.

The United Kingdom balance of payments data released Monday morning were slightly better than expected, adding to the rally.

Share prices were mixed on caution ahead of UK trade figures, and in the wake of a sharp fall on the Tokyo market, brokers said.

At its early quote, the Financial Times index was up 0.3 points at 2400.4.

In Tokyo, a volatile session left stocks broadly lower, and the Nikkei index dropped 526.73 points to 31,894.79.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index was closed 19.46 higher at 3,559.89.

Turkey's big oil order to China

ANKARA, July 23, (Reuters): Turkey, needing more oil and seeking to diversify its sources, announced plans today for an eight-fold increase in purchases from China.

State Minister Mehmet Keesicer, just back from a five-day official visit to China, said he signed an agreement to buy 675,000 tonnes in the remainder of 1990 and two million tonnes in 1991.

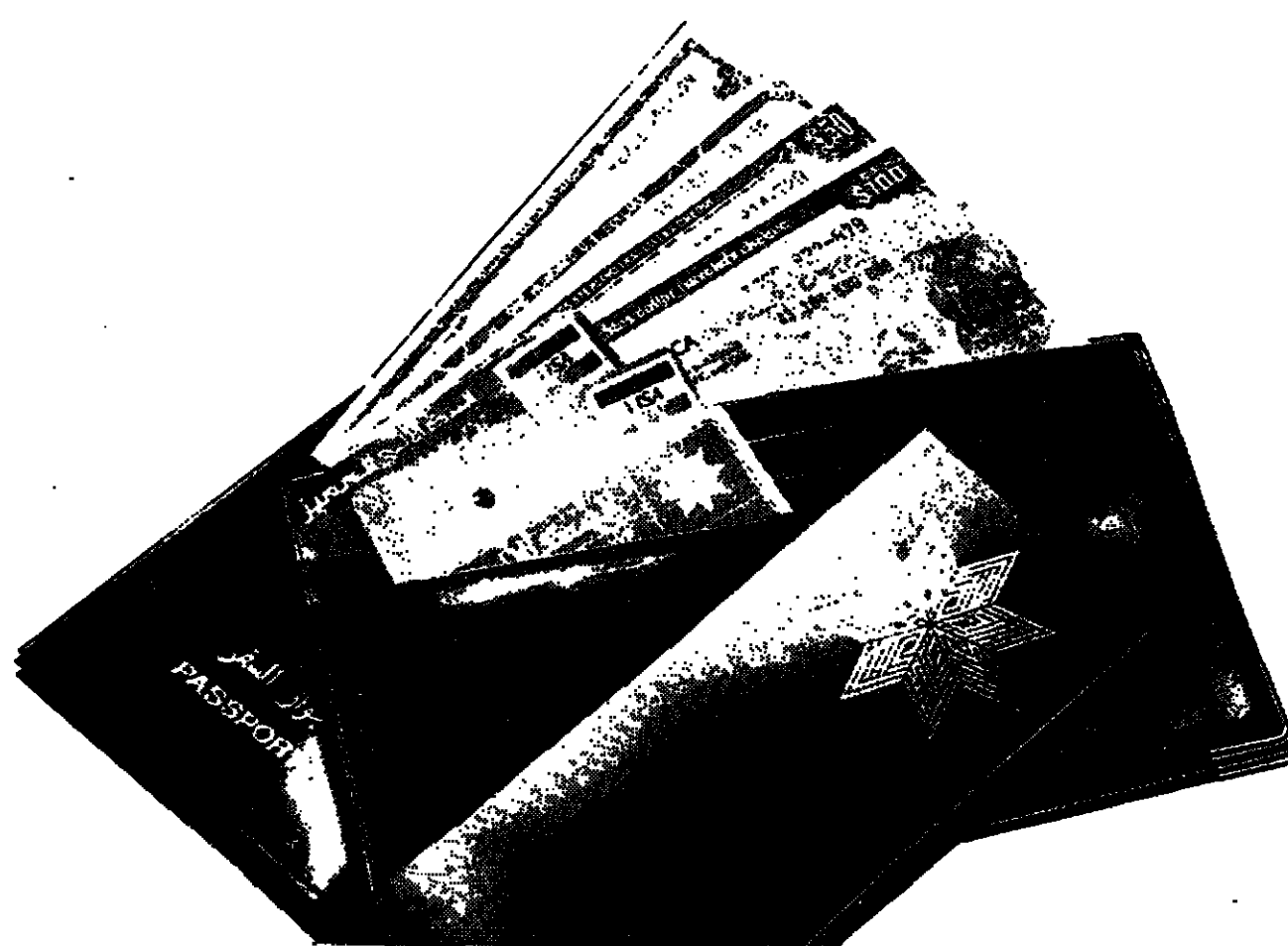
China supplied 257,000 tonnes of crude to Turkey in 1989, less than 1.5 per cent of imports of 18.62 million tonnes. Official sources expect total imports to reach 22 million tonnes this year.

"Turkey will diversify its oil sources. It won't be dependent upon a single source," Keesicer told reporters.

Iraq is Turkey's biggest oil supplier with 63 per cent of total imports in 1989, followed by Libya with 9.9 per cent and Iran with 9.5 per cent.

Ankara and Baghdad have been at odds over the sharing of waters from the Euphrates river since Turkey diverted the waters for 30 days in January to fill a new dam.

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Self-reliance advocated

South Commission focus

ZURICH, July 23, (Kuna): Every developing country should adopt a strategy of building the maximum amount of national self-reliance as rapidly as possible, suggests Julius X. Nyerere, the former president of Tanzania and the Chairman of the Geneva-based South Commission, in an interview published yesterday in the International Herald Tribune (IHT).

Talking about the focus of the South Commission's report, to be published on Aug 3, Nyerere said it advocates greatly increased and more deliberate South-South co-operation in all fields.

"In all negotiations, the North acts in concert, while the South does not. As a result, the much greater comparative strength of the North in relation to the South is increased, and the common interests of the countries of the South are to a large extent ignored. We urge that the South should face

up to the reality, and stand together in meeting the organised North," he said.

Nyerere said virtually all the countries of the South were in crisis. Aid, as defined by the World Bank, was two per cent less in real terms last year than the year before. Aid, loans, and direct investments are all likely to be further reduced in real, if not in nominal terms, in the coming years, he added.

As to how much of the Third World's problems were self-inflicted, Nyerere said there were a few countries where corruption at the highest levels was 'scandalous'. "For any Third World president to have millions, and sometimes reputedly billions, of dollars in overseas private bank accounts is a disgrace."

"But the most corrupt regimes in the South have the full backing of powerful northern interests,

including some governments" Nyerere alleged. But he also pointed out that "mismanagement" was not only the monopoly of Third World but was found in Europe and America as well.

Commenting on possible political and economic decay on the African continent, Nyerere said that would not be surprising. The standard of living has been going down or stagnating since more than a decade, just like the economic and social infrastructure, he said.

"Africa is excessively fragmented. Europe is moving towards unity. But on matters of continental unity and co-operation, almost every African leader is more conservative than Mrs Thatcher. Without unity and a renewed spirit of confidence and self-reliance, tragedy awaits Africa in the 21st century," he warned.

BUSINESS

EC bids tough terms for EMU

Blueprint for integration

BRUSSELS, July 23, (Reuters): European Community nations must meet tough economic conditions before they proceed to more advanced stages of economic and monetary union (EMU), a new blueprint for integration says.

The report by the EC's influential Monetary Committee, a copy of which was given to Reuters, was being discussed by EC finance ministers in Brussels this afternoon.

It says that before advancing towards monetary union, all 12 countries should tie their currencies into a fixed rate in the European Monetary System (EMS) with a fluctuation margin of 2.25 percent from that rate.

Britain, Greece and Portugal are not yet full members of the EMS while the Spanish peseta fluctuates within a wider band.

There should also be a narrowing of inflation rates and tough budget discipline before proceeding, the report says.

"If this transition were to be attempted on the basis of a lower degree of convergence than specified here, the effect would be to delay considerably the transition to the final stage," the 29-page document added.

US, EC agree to begin talks

Agricultural reform

GENEVA, (Agencies): The United States and European Community agreed Tuesday to begin substantive negotiations on agricultural reform — the key area threatening the entire Uruguay Round of global trade liberalisation talks.

Agreement on genuine farm trade bargaining was reached at the opening of a one-week review of the Uruguay Round, which began in 1986 and faces a deadline of December this year.

The time for statements and posturing is past, a US statement said.

Together with other big agricultural producer and importer countries, the two farming superpowers also agreed that negotiations should cover all areas in the sector.

That was crucial, officials said, because of previous EC refusals to discuss any major cuts in its farm export subsidies. Washington links a Uruguay Round package to hefty reductions in the EC's annual \$34 billion farm export subsidies, saying that state assistance costs American farmers \$11 billion a year in lost sales.

EC officials argue that the community's 11 million farmers actually receive less support per capita than the 2 million American farmers through \$8.4 billion in annual internal US farm support payments.

The two farming superpowers together with other big producer and importer countries agreed that substantive negotiations will be initiated in the month of August, a statement said.

"The (Uruguay Round) group on agriculture also stated its understanding that all agricultural products are within the scope of the negotiations," it said.

Agreement to at least start real bargaining despite serious differences was welcomed by US deputy trade negotiator Julius Katz and agriculture department under-secretary Richard Crowder.

"We expect that all the participants will engage seriously in all areas of the agriculture negotiations," they said in a statement.

"It (now) remains to be seen whether this process will serve to unblock the differences that have stymied progress in the negotiations to date," they said. "A deadlock has been broken," said Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the regulatory framework for 97 per cent of world commerce.

"Now I know that everyone is committed to start the negotiations in all areas," Dunkel said.

At the same time, however, he warned that deep differences continue between the main players on agriculture and in other major Uruguay Round sectors such as services like banking and insurance, and textiles and clothing.

Rows over farm trade reform, curbs on textile exports, commercial piracy and new rules for the 105-nation Uruguay Round delegates from 105 countries at international trade talks which resumed in Geneva yesterday.

EC subsidies

Crunch to come

CHAGFORD, England, July 23, (Reuters): A blackface sheep grazes peacefully among the granite outcrops of Dartmoor as a storm of international proportions prepares to burst upon it.

Between its pasture, one of the last great wildernesses of southwest England, and a storm of international proportions, taxpayers from 12 countries have subsidised its existence.

The European Community nations believe such "socio-economic" payments are necessary to safeguard rural life.

But it has put them on collision course with the United States which is heading a campaign to end all "trade-distorting" farm subsidies.

The crunch could come at a crucial session starting in Geneva on Monday of the 105-nation Uruguay Round of negotiations to liberalise world trade being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The talks, named after the country where they were launched in 1986, are due to wind up in Brussels in December with accords to set the rules for world commerce into the next century.

GATT negotiators have said a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round is dependent on a deal over farm subsidies.

But could Britain's farmers survive without such payments?

"Absolutely not," said John Wells, who keeps around 40 cattle out on the high grazing grounds near the moorland town of Chagford, deep in the heart of the Dartmoor National Park.

"It's the only profit there is. Without the subsidy, one would barely

break even."

John Hooper, 32, said the returns from farming were so poor even with the subsidies that he had to give up his 400 sheep and 30 cows and is now paying his way through college.

The British government believes the subsidies are necessary to preserve employment in areas where there is little alternative to farming, and to stop the land from falling into ruin.

But farming is not as important as it used to be. It accounts for only three per cent of the total gross domestic product (GDP) of the European Community.

In Britain, agricultural workers make up less than three per cent of the total work force. Even in a farming area like Chagford, agricultural workers — at 36 per cent of the region's work force — have been displaced in numbers by the 38 per cent employed in finance, publishing and advertising.

There are several types of subsidy available for different types of farming in different types of areas.

The total outlay in Britain on these subsidies — known as the "Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance" — is 125 million pounds (\$226 million), three quarters of which comes from the British government and the rest from the EC.

Then there are the "market support" subsidies available to all farmers, not just those on hill farms.

Under this there is the "beef special premium scheme," wholly funded by the EC, where a payment of 31.80 pounds (\$57.61) is paid at slaughter of male cattle of at least nine months. There is a limit of 90 head per year per farmer.

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IDB allocates \$11.02m for project financing

JEDDAH, July 23, (Opema): The executive board of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) ended its 16th meeting here at the weekend by allocating \$11.02 million for project financing in member states.

The board agreed to provide technical assistance to finance engineering designs for a road project linking Chad's border area with Sudan. A further \$822,000 was approved to help finance a 171 km road scheme in Chad.

Tapie unashamedly ambitious

Aims high in business, sports, politics

PARIS, July 23, (AP): Bernard Tapie is indeed wealthy, publicity-hungry and unashamedly ambitious. Yes, he is eyeing a run for the presidency and has just engineered the biggest deal of an extraordinary career by acquiring Adidas, the giant sporting goods company.

Tapie has developed the highest public profile of any businessman in France.

He owns the country's best soccer team, serves in Parliament, has been host of a television show, and wrote a book about himself titled, "Gagner" (to win).

Four years ago, women surveyed in a national poll picked Tapie over movie stars and singers as the man they would most like to accompany on a vacation.

But Tapie, 47, says he's not content to make money and live the good life. He wants Adidas to expand non-profit sports development programmes in Africa, he wants the French public to be more hospitable to immigrants, and he wants Bernard Tapie to command a crusade against Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front.

It's a desire to be different from American multimillionaire Donald Trump that compelled him to take on the mission of stopping Le Pen, Tapie told Paris Match magazine.

Might he carry his fight all the way to the presidency, the interviewer asked.

"If necessary, yes," Tapie replied. "If you have a chance to take a position of power, to affect the course of events, why not do it?"

Polls show Tapie to be broadly popular across France, and he fine-tunes his image by depicting himself as a populist scorned by the political and business elite.

He grew up in a blue-collar Paris suburb and tried an assortment of jobs — including pop singer — before establishing himself in the 1970s as one of France's first world-class takeover specialists.

He refined a technique of buying up bankrupt or failing companies at nominal prices, improving their efficiency, then selling them for a quick and often substantial gain.

He has promised he won't repeat his

pattern with Adidas, which is locked in a battle with Nike for the title of world's No.1 sporting goods maker.

The \$29-million acquisition following nine months of secret negotiations, but Tapie made sure the news was spread when the secrecy ended. He announced the purchase in Rome, on the eve of the World Cup soccer championship, to scores of reporters gathered from around the world.

It was one of the biggest purchases ever of a West German firm by a Frenchman, and earned nationalistic praise for Tapie even from commentators sceptical about his financial base. Last Monday, Tapie silenced some of the doubters by listing eight major banks as his backers — four from France, two from West Germany, two from Japan.

An Adidas subsidiary, the Swiss-based firm ISL, serves as marketing consultant for international soccer's governing body, and Tapie has stated openly that he hopes his acquisition will help ensure France's selection as host of the 1998 World Cup.

Although it lost money last year, Adidas remains one of the best-known brand names in the world, with products sold in 160 countries. It has 10,000 employees, and its sales and licensing revenues last year totalled about \$2.8 billion.

It dwarfs the total size of Tapie's industrial empire in France — a constantly changing assortment of companies involved in such products as weighing machines and health foods.

One of his most prized possessions is Olympic Marseille, a soccer team that was flourishing before Tapie began spending millions on world-class players. This year, the team reached the semifinals of the European Cup, which determines the continent's best pro team.

He previously sponsored teams in the Tour de France, and was the executive force behind Greg LeMond in 1986 when he became the first American to win the world's premier bicycle race.

A yachtsman and pilot, Tapie describes sports as one of his three passions, along with business and politics.

To stop foreign firms from defrauding

'Expand tax collection'

NEW YORK, July 23, (UPI): Sen. Alfonzo D'Amato, Republican of New York, responding to reports that the federal government loses \$20 billion annually in taxes from foreign companies that under-report their incomes, said yesterday he would introduce legislation to expand tax collection efforts.

"Foreign companies are defrauding the country to the tune of \$20 billion every year, the New York Republican said. "An unconscionable fraud is being perpetrated against the American people and American businesses struggling to compete against foreign firms paying little or no tax."

The senator said a statement that the government should not be reducing the federal deficit "on the backs of US taxpayers" until it attempts to collect billions of dollars

owed by foreign firms selling their products to American consumers.

He said a General Accounting Office report had found that between 1984 and 1987, foreign firms operating in the United States reported an average return on assets and receipts of less than one per cent.

"It strains the imagination to believe these foreign firms," he said. "If these companies are making such minuscule profits, how can they afford to continue doing business in the United States?"

D'Amato called for application of the "waitress theory" to collect the taxes. Under the theory, the Internal Revenue Service presumes food servers earn eight per cent of their income in tips so it subjects them to an eight per cent tax on their gross receipts as an estimate of their total tips.

US budget talks pick up pace this week

WASHINGTON, July 23, (UPI): This is the week President Bush and Congress pick up the pace of their plodding budget summit, under pressure to forge a deficit-reduction agreement before their already difficult task is complicated by other election-year concerns.

The negotiations, which for the most part have been held on Capitol Hill, move to the White House, where Bush will meet with congressional leaders for 90 minutes tomorrow and an hour each of the following three days in a search for \$50 billion or more in spending cuts and revenue increases next year.

When Bush agreed May 6 to open negotiations on a bipartisan deficit-reduction plan, the idea was that his personal involvement would be limited, called upon only when needed to inject momentum into the process.

With Congress as little as two weeks away from a summer recess that could postpone further work until Labor Day, that time for intervention has arrived.

The first sign came last Wednesday, when Bush invited the top five members of the congressional leadership to the White House for a review of the limited progress to date.

The intent was to give what White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater characterised as "a little shove" to the talks and move beyond generalities to the nitty-gritty of the budget problem.

This week will see further acceleration. Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas said yesterday that Bush will become "more active" "pushing Congress" despite "pushing" from some Democrats that is the administration that has been slow to come forward with specific proposals, especially in the lousy area of taxes.

Interviewed on the NBC programme "meet the press," Dole said members of both parties agree that "the posturing stage surely should be over." In contrast to the partisan fireworks that erupted last week in the senate over civil rights legislation, Dole said the budget summit has reached the point where there is "good faith on both sides."

Time, however, is running short and Dole concedes it was "probably not realistic" to expect an agreement before Congress recesses Aug 3 or 10.

"It would take something short of a miracle," he said.



Auctioneer Michael Shortall poses with his 10-year-old daughter Claire, who is wearing one of Queen Victoria's nightdresses and a pair of shoes on July 21. The nightdress along with some of Queen Victoria's underclothing are included in a sale on July 23 of one of the best preserved collections of garments from the Royal household. (Reuters wirephoto)

Turkey on way to being creditor state

ISTANBUL, July 23, (Reuters): Central Bank Governor Enis Saracoglu, urging foreign financiers to take a more positive view of Turkey, said rapid economic progress was starting to turn it from a debtor into a creditor nation.

"People cannot get over the perception of Turkey as a major borrower. There are more lenders today to Turkey than it needs," Saracoglu told Reuters in an interview at the weekend.

"One single message I would give to the foreign financial community is that they should really stop looking at Turkey as a debt-ridden country," he said.

"Many people are not aware of the fact that ... Turkey is rapidly becoming a creditor."

Foreign reserves reached a record high of \$10 billion on June 22, boosted by an easing of foreign exchange controls in August. Reserves were \$3.7 billion at the end of 1985.

Foreign debt stood at \$40.8 billion at the end of March, including bond issues to refinance Foreign Military Sales debt.

"Ten billion dollars of debt rescheduled in 1980-82 had been paid off by last year."

"When they make bridge loans to Poland or Hungary at the Bank of International Settlements, it never occurs to them that Turkey might take part as a creditor," said Saracoglu.

"We'd like to participate in these loans but nobody comes and asks us," he added.

He said his bank's foreign currency reserves covered its foreign debt servicing scheduled for next year.

"We can now foresee at least 12 months ahead. I remember that in November 1987, we had difficulty seeing one month ahead," he said.

Policies to revitalise domestic demand helped industrial output to grow 11 per cent in the first quarter of this year over the same period last year.

A drought, combined with stiff deflationary measures, cut gross national product (GNP) growth to an eight-year low of 1.7 per cent in 1989.

Business briefs

Bahrain bank reports profit: The National Bank of Bahrain reports its net income after provisions for the period ended 30 June 1990 is BD5.4 million (US\$14.4 million) compared with BD 4.8 million (US\$12.8 million) as of June 30, 1989. This increase of 12.5 per cent in net income after provisions was mainly due to lower level of provisions required by the bank. Total provision for the first half of 1990 amounted to BD 1.9 million (US\$5.0 million) compared with BD 2.5 million (US\$6.6 million) for the same period of 1989. The provisions made during the first half of 1990 were entirely of a general nature.

Statement of condition showed a reduction of 5 per cent in loans and advances from BD 188.5 million (US\$413.6 million) as of 30 June 1989 to BD 181 million (US\$393.6 million) as of June 30, 1990. Deposits with banks showed a reduction of 2 per cent from BD 397.5 million (US\$1,038.3 million) as of 30 June 1990.

\$21m French loan for Yemen: Yemen signed a protocol with France on Sunday for a \$21 million loan for financing communications and electricity projects.

Yemen will have to repay the loan within 20 years. The loan attracts one per cent interest per annum after a 10-year grace period.

The Yemeni Republic was declared on May 22 after a merger between formerly Marxist-ruled South and the Western oriented North Yemen. (Reuters)

De Beers to halt digging: De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd said it would end underground production this year at the 120-year-old mine in Kimberley which controls the northern Cape province town's diamond boom.

The company, which controls four-fifths of the world's rough diamond market through its London-based Central Selling Organisation, said the De Beers mine in Kimberley, which employs 150 workers, had reached the end of its economic life.

But the end of underground production would not mean the mine's immediate closure, De Beers said. (Reuters)

US corporations unprepared: American corporations are unprepared for the workforce of the future, according to a new study released in Washington Friday.

The challenges American firms are facing include a severe shortage of young, entry-level workers, a lack of skilled workers, an increase in the number of minorities, immigrants and women and the "graying" of the workforce, the study says.

The study, prepared by the Hudson Institute and presented to a congressional committee, is entitled, "Workforce 2000: Competing in a seller's market." (Kuna)

Greek deficits remain high: Greece's huge state deficits will not be cut this year, keeping interest rates high and thwarting efforts to modernise the battered economy, Central Bank governor Dimitris Halikias said in an interview on Sunday.

"The biggest obstacle to modernisation is the huge public sector deficits," he told the independent Sunday newspaper Vima.

"As state deficits remain at their present levels, and unfortunately they won't be reduced in 1990, interest rates will remain high for companies," he said. (Reuters)

China's imports drop drastically: China's crackdown on the pro-democracy movement and an austerity plan help cause imports to drop sharply this year over last, a government official said Monday.

Imports for the first half of 1990 dropped by almost one-fourth compared to the same period last year, said the official, Liu Xiangdong. China's exports, meanwhile, jumped 21.7 per cent over the first half of 1989, totalling \$24.5 billion US, Liu, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, said at a news conference.

June's export volume of \$5.32 billion US was China's highest in a single month, according to statistics handed out at the briefing. (AP)

Australian tourism booms: The number of international visitors to Australia in April this year was up thirteen per cent over April 1989, according to figures just released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

This is the largest monthly increase since November 1988. Commenting on the figures, the Minister for the Arts, Tourism and Territories, Mr David Simmons, said it was particularly encouraging to see that the holiday component had grown by nineteen per cent in April. This demonstrated Australia's growing attractiveness as a visitor destination.

In the first four months of 1990, total arrivals were six per cent higher than the equivalent period in 1989, with more than 739,000 people visiting Australia in these four months compared with 700,000 in the same period last year.

Nikkei stock average: 31894.79	Mitsubishi Corp	1520
(-526.73)	Mitsubishi Estate	1410
Volume: 300 mil shs	Mitsubishi F&I	961
Yes exchange rate: 148.50	Mitsui R E	1730
Name of stock	Mizuno Corp	1860
Advantest Corp	Mobidia Ph	4070
Ajinomoto	Mori Seiki Co.	4200
Alps Electric	NEC Corp	1930
Amada	Nikon Corp	1630
Asahi Glass Ind	Nippon Shin Co	1080
Asahi Glass	Nippon Steel Corp	546
C. Itoh Co	Nippondenso	2260
Canon Inc	Nitaku Corp	1470
Casio Comp	Omura Sec	2150
Dai Nippon Printing	Owada Mach	1770
Daiichi Seiyaku	Owada K Co.	2180
Dainippon Pha	Orix Corp	5180
Daihiniku Corp	Pioneer Elec Co	6320
Eisai	Renown Look Inc	2440
Fanuc Ltd	Sanyo Elec Co	858
Fuji Photo	Seom Co., Ltd.	6720
Fujitsu Ltd	Shin-Etsu Chem	1870
Hitachi Credit	Shindengen Elec	1370
Hitachi Koki	Sony Corp	8800
Hitachi Ltd	Sumitomo Elec Ind.	1620
Hitachi Metal	Sumitomo Met Ind.	526
Honda Motor	Takada Chemical	1700
Ito Yokado Co	TDK Corp	7250
Kajima Corp	Tokio Marine & Fire	1310
Kawasaki H I	Tokyo Elec Power	4000
Kobe Cast Iron	Tokyo Electron Ltd	4670
Kokusai Elec	Toshiba Corp	1770
Komatsu Ltd	Toray Ind Inc	1030
Kyocera Corp	Toyo Motor	2250
Matsushita Ind	Yaskawa Elec	1030
Matsushita Elec	Provided by Nomura Investment	
Mazda M C	Banking (Midwest), Bahrain	

بذات الحالتين

Cinema

Stacy Keach returns to jail

MIKE HAMMER actor Stacy Keach is going back to jail... but just for make-believe. Stacy, who served six months for smuggling cocaine into Britain, is playing a real-life convict in his latest movie.

Ex-private eye Hammer told me from his home in Malibu: "I have to admit the time I spent in prison helped a lot with my role in the film, *False Identity*."

"I don't want to talk about when I served my sentence. It is just too painful. It was a very traumatic time."

"But I don't bear a grudge towards England. In fact, if I were offered a part there tomorrow, I would go like a shot. Unfortunately, I have tried to act there and, because of my conviction, I have been refused a work permit."

"I can come and go as I like, apparently, so long as I am not working as an actor. I look forward to the time when I can come back to British soil although, the way things are, I have no immediate plans to do so."

Since 48-year-old Keach was released from the slammer, his attitude to life has changed a lot. He now lectures throughout the United States on drug abuse. And he has become a doting and protective father.

Stacy has had son Shannon, aged two, by the girl who was his faithful prison visitor Malgosia Tomassi, now his fourth wife. He seeks to protect the boy from the stresses and strains of show-business that set him on the path to jail.

He said: "It would make Dad very proud if Shannon would



In *False Identity*, Stacy Keach hears echoes from his own past as the character he plays, Ben Driscoll, serves time in prison. Above: Ben confronts the baddie Marshall Erickson (Tobin Bell).



Ben and sexy reporter Rachel Catton (Genevieve Bujold) work together to discover a town's dark secrets.

become a scientist. Anything is more secure than acting. I would worry about him going through

the rejection people suffer in my profession. "Shannon has changed my

outlook on life. My priorities are different now. I have become much more conscious of my responsibilities. But it is a very positive thing. It's a good feeling to have somebody dependent on you."

Stacy wed ex-model Malgosia soon after he was released from jail. Even though he was married to Jill Donahue when he was sentenced. He said fondly: "Malgosia was my rock."

"She was the most important factor in my getting through the whole experience."

He went on: "Although I have been married four times, Shannon is my first child. When I was younger, I didn't want to have children. It was a responsibility I didn't need."

"I was much too selfish and wrapped up in my career to bother with it. I felt a child would have been a hindrance to me. It wasn't until I reached my forties that I changed my mind."

"Right now, Malgosia and I are talking about having another child. Shannon is wonderful, I

love him dearly. Although, at the moment, he's going through the terrible two with a vengeance."

"He's experimenting with all the boundaries of what he can and cannot do. And he says, 'Not a lot.'"

Stacy blames the pressure of getting the first *Mike Hammer* shows on TV for his cocaine problem. He was working 17 hours, six days a week in order to produce the show on time.

He said: "My association with drugs was for medical purposes. I was never a social user, it was something I did privately, not on the film set. Now I'm into physical fitness and spending time with my family."

Stacy works to teach youngsters the evils of drugs. He said: "What happened to me helped the entertainment industry. Many in the business saw that lives could be destroyed by drugs."

"Frankly, it's no longer hip to be stoned or on drugs. Hollywood is no longer Temptation Capital, USA."

Ecology

'We have met the enemy; he is us'

By Robert C. Cowen

WHEN it comes to our planet's ecological future, the lovable old cartoon character Pogo said it all: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

The "critical thing" in the destruction of Earth's life-support systems is the impact of human population, says Stanford University human ecologist Paul Ehrlich. Unprecedented overpopulation and its continuing growth "are major factors in problems as diverse as global warming, African famines, acid rain, the threat of nuclear war, the garbage crisis, and the danger of epidemics," he explains.

Professor Emeritus Nathan Keyfitz, a Harvard University sociologist, has noted that some economists have taken to "viewing population as the ultimate resource and science as infinitely and immediately able to supply technological solutions." He calls that view "the result of a narrow disciplinary perspective that treats economics in isolation from its real-world setting."

Concerned ecologists such as Drs Ehrlich and Keyfitz warn that we are depleting the capital resources on which human life depends. Especially in the poorest areas "the scissors effect" of poverty and increasing population is slicing away at their ability to sustain human life," says Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund. Dr Sadik points up her concern with a few startling numbers. Tropical forests shrink by 27 million acres a year. Some 26 billion tons of topsoil slip away annually. New deserts appear at a rate of about 15 million acres a year. Tropical developing countries have seen roughly 400 million acres of upland watershed "grossly degraded" over the last three decades.

In addition, users in many areas are consuming groundwater faster than nature replaces it. Also, something like half the world's croplands are troubled with waterlogging and salt buildup. In fact, Sadik says, reviewing the situation in the United Nations magazine *Update*, "the amount of land available for agriculture may be shrinking even as numbers and needs grow."

In industrially advanced regions, relatively fewer people make relatively larger demands on resources. "The birth of a baby in the United States, given our lifestyle support system, is 100 times the ecological disaster than the birth of a baby in Bangladesh represents," says Ehrlich to dramatize this point.

It's hard to quantify population impact. Ehrlich suggests looking at rates of energy use. Sadik notes

that "The industrialised countries contain less than 25 per cent of the world's population, yet they consume 75 per cent of the energy used, 79 per cent of all commercial fuels, 85 per cent of all wood products, and 72 per cent of all steel production."

This does not mean that massive overpopulation and its growth in many developing countries is any kinder to the planet. Keyfitz has observed that "it's possible to debate this issue (of lifestyle versus sheer numbers) endlessly."

In his institute's publication *Options* he explains: "What we call traditional good farming or good forestry practice is maintaining the land in such condition that it will keep production indefinitely.... But tradition is not everywhere a protection: The loggers of Nepal, like the cattle-raisers of the Sahel, have improvident traditions. They do not seem about to change their practices; indeed, they are too poor to risk any change at all — and the more of them there are, the more quickly they destroy their resource base." He sums up by saying: "The least one can say is that every aspect of the problem (of human impact) is eased by having fewer rather than more people."

As things stand now, having fewer people is not the direction of global trends. The current growth rate is about a billion people every 11 years, mostly in developing nations. That's an extra 94 million a year — roughly the population of Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland combined.

There is a consensus among the ecologists that such a trend can't go on. If it is not dealt with rationally, through birth control, they warn that nature — famines, pestilence, plague, war — will adjust things brutally. Writing in the recent US National Academy of Sciences publication *Global Change and Our Common Future*, former Environmental Protection Agency administrator William Ruckelshaus observes that nature will go on even if it means dispensing with the human species. "Attractive animals and even particular ecosystems may be vulnerable, but nature herself is not.... We are talking about a self-regulating system the size of a planet 3 billion years old," he notes.

What the experts seem to be saying is that it is time to face the much-discussed issues of population control squarely because they are central to humanity's future. As Ehrlich notes, this will not be easy because these issues are viewed in a variety of cultural, ethnic, national and religious perspectives. This is why they have been peripheral to the concern about the environment.

La Valley's 'Botanic Ark'

Changing Australia

David Clark Scott

WARRAGUL, Australia (CMS): Steve La Valley won't win any marketing prizes. On a country road about 60 miles east of Melbourne, his faded "Botanic Ark" sign has seen too many days of searing Australian sun. La Valley greets visitors with the frank admission that his ramshackle, scrap-lumber-strewn estate does look more like a dump than a garden nursery.

But this shaggy-bearded "Noah," with a master's degree in natural science, is far more interested in results than appearances. "I don't know that you can solve the world's problems. But I've already changed Australia in a thousand ways — well, 10,000 ways — by just doing this little thing I do here," he says in a soft voice still laced with an American accent.

La Valley has lived in Australia for 16 years. Since 1981, he's been propagating and selling unusual plants from all over the world. Spurred by ongoing environmental degradation and fear of nuclear holocaust, he aims to bolster the biodiversity of the Australia landscape.

Socrates said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." I've thought about how you make environments diverse, as opposed to simplifying them, which is what man is doing everywhere," says La Valley. "I'm trying to reverse the current destruction of genetic variability."

His five-acre-square organic nursery is packed with hundreds of young trees, shrubs, and seedlings. The emphasis is on slow-growing varieties ignored by commercial farms.

Most are rare — particularly in Australia — and "useful." That is, edible varieties and those used in making such things as candles, perfumes, paper, dyes, sugar, cordage, spices, and silk.

An orchard tour is part botanical seminar, part philosophical homily: "This Brazilian cherry guava will cover the ground in edible fruit 10 inches deep. This North American Osage Orange was used by the Osage Indians; it's one of the finest bow woods on the planet... Thomas Jefferson said something like, 'one of the best things you can possibly do for any place, is introduce just one kind of useful plant to it.' ... This is a New South Wales Sassafras; they used it for mosquito repellent in World War II, until it was replaced by DDT... This Plum Pine is found in Australian rainforests. Cooked, it makes a fine jam. Uncooked, it's chicken fodder."

La Valley says his customers are often like-minded "strange people living in funny little river valleys in the mountains and hinterlands of Australia. People who don't want to eat 'poisoned' (that is, chemically-treated) fruits, living as natural a life style as possible."

Soured on American values in the wake of Vietnam and Watergate, La Valley came to Australia in 1974 to teach. He stayed on after his two-year contract lapsed. A few years were spent living in a farmhouse, and in a commune, gathering some hands-on horticultural experience. "Although I have a master's, majored in botany, I was never required to grow or care for plants," he remarks. Then he and Robyn, also a teacher and his partner for 15 years, started the Botanic Ark on a derelict farm.

They live modestly. The gardens, orchard, goats, and chickens surround their two-room house. "We don't do a lot of business. But we don't need much money," La Valley says. He claims not to have been to the city, a restaurant, or a movie theatre in 10 years. But they do have a 200-tape videocassette library, he says, and just bought a dishwasher.

Some plants in the "ark" are grown from seeds bought overseas. Most are the result of scavenging the countryside for rare, acclimated species. "I never take the main roads. I search for old home sites, old railway stations, shire halls, cemeteries. Wherever humans gather, they usually plant trees."

La Valley's actions are criticized by some Australian naturalists. For the last decade, there's been a move to propagate indigenous plants, to restore the Australian landscape to its pre-European-settlers condition. "Saving things Australian is an excellent idea. I work toward that," he says. "But the whole planet is endangered." He argues that plants from other continents will also be necessary to support the population in the event of a catastrophe.

How does La Valley justify his "ark" when there are already botanic gardens in cities around the world, and universities preserving genetic material from plants in huge vaults?

"There's no way I would measure up what I'm doing here as being more significant," he says. But, he argues, a nuclear war is more likely to decimate the gardens and vaults near major cities than his humble plantation.

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Steve La Valley, a natural scientist, poses with a South African fan.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

ALL POSSIBLE CAUSES OF STERILITY SHOULD BE EXAMINED

QUESTION: Could you please be so kind as to explain male sterility due to mumps contracted during puberty? I have been married six years and I haven't been able to get pregnant. How does this illness affect the male's reproductive system, and is there any cure for it?

Answer: Mumps is a disease that is found world-wide, and blood tests show that by age 15 more than 90 per cent of people living in urban areas have been exposed to the disease. It most often occurs in children 5 to 9 years old, but those statistics are changing due to a mumps vaccine that was first available for use in 1967.

The cause of the infection is a virus that is passed through contact with secretions from an infected individual's nose, mouth and throat. About one-third of the time the disease proceeds with no symptoms at all, except for a slight fever and malaise. However, the most noticeable feature of the full-blown attack is swelling of the parotid gland located in the cheek, as well as other salivary glands. It may also affect the testicles of men past puberty in from 10 to 20 per cent of the cases. It then is called "orchitis" or inflammation of the testicles.

It may touch one or both sides, and according to some articles in the literature, rarely may affect sterility, or, according to other experts, produce sterility in as many as half the cases. The viral infection attacks the sperm-producing cells and destroys them, leaving the testicle atrophied or shrunken. Fortunately the cells that produce the masculine hormone are not affected, and so levels of male hormone remain normal throughout life.

Once the damage has been done, there is no treatment available to regenerate the sperm-producing cells. When the problem is sterility, a complete work-up must be performed to determine the number and activity of sperm that may be present, and to evaluate the potential for fertilisation. If the findings indicate that this might occur, you also must be examined for possible causes of infertility, which should then be treated and corrected as well.

Although a history of mumps is important in fertility problems, it must not be considered the culprit until all the possibilities have been examined.

Medical News

Sexing embryos

A RESEARCH team at London's Hammersmith Hospital has discovered how to identify the sex of a test-tube baby before the embryo is transferred to the mother.

This advance opens the way to screening for 20 genetic disorders, including haemophilia and Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which affect only male children. Surgeons will now be able to ensure that only female test-tube babies are transferred to a mother at risk of passing on such an inherited disorder.

Until now, genetic assessment of embryos had been carried out after the embryo has been implanted in the wall of the mother's uterus, by sampling the amniotic fluid or examining embryonic cells in the placenta in a process that can be done from the eighth week of pregnancy.

But the Hammersmith team has managed to determine the sex of a woman's embryos only three days after the eggs have been fertilised with her husband's sperm in the test-tube. At this stage, the embryo consists of a ball of six or eight cells and is only a tenth of a millimetre across.

A single cell is removed from each embryo and is amplified a millionfold in a process called polymerase chain reaction that enables the sex of the embryo to be identified within a few hours.

Prof. Robert Winston, who is leading the research, says three women who are carriers of serious diseases, are now pregnant in the knowledge that their babies will be free of the inherited defects that have marred their previous pregnancies.

Prof Robert Winston, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, 150 Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS; telephone 44-81 743 2030.

Author shatters Richard Byrd image

Beyond the Barrier, by Eugene Rodgers (Naval Institute Press, 354 pp., \$24.95)

Adm. Richard E. Byrd is pictured by most historians as a skilled pilot, navigator, explorer and indomitable expedition leader, who fearlessly explored the Antarctic and became the first pilot to fly over the South Pole.

In this book, Eugene Rodgers shows us a different Byrd — an inept pilot, poor navigator, an unsteady leader with a fear of flying, and at times a heavy drinker with a light regard for the truth.

Rodgers says his access to Byrd's private papers, recently made available at Ohio State University, to a large extent made it possible for him to give what he calls the first objective account of Byrd's 1928 expedition, which featured the first polar flight and discoveries of vast Antarctic territories.

In no way does Rodgers diminish the successes of Byrd's work, but his account of the man himself, and how it differs from the Byrd stereotype, dominates the book.

According to Rodgers, formerly with the US Antarctic Research

Programme, Byrd's saintly image has been protected for years by his relatives and admirers, some of whom refused to be interviewed for this book.

No matter what Byrd's personal shortcomings might have been, Rodgers concludes he was a showman who captured the American imagination and persuaded many tycoons to finance his ambitions. As Rodgers notes, he was "a superb organizer and planner" who overcame adversity and "accomplished almost all his goals."

Blossom, by Andrew Vachss (Knopf, 255 pp., \$17.95)

A novel by Andrew Vachss is not the kind of thing you turn to if you're looking for a few hours of pleasant escape. A book by Vachss more often than not leaves you feeling that you've just taken a dirt bath.

But that's exactly what makes Vachss' books such a fascinating read. An attorney specialising in juvenile justice and child abuse, Vachss shows a great familiarity with his subjects in these tales of Burke, a man with a working knowledge of the seamy side of Manhattan who uses that knowledge in investigations.

"Blossom" is actually less grimy and violent than Vachss' earlier "Blue Belle" or "Flood." It takes Burke out of New York city to an Indiana town just miles from Chicago, to find the sniper who is getting his kicks out of randomly killing people on a lover's lane.

"Blossom" again features a female character of a type not normally seen in detective stories, women much like Burke — very tough but with a tender side. The tale is told in short, punchy chapters that move the plot along, and although Burke's more unusual friends play only a marginal role this time, his own insight and instincts are hard at work.

One of the good things about the Burke novels is that Vachss keeps his characters developing from book to book, and as before, "Blossom" will leave you waiting for the next.

Bad Company, by Steve Wick (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 270 pp., \$19.95)

Sex, drugs, and Hollywood. The stuff murder mysteries are made of. Only in "Bad Company," subtitled: "Drugs, Hollywood and the Cotton Club Murder," Pulitzer prize-winning

reporter Steve Wick is writing about a cocaine-addled skein of real crimes.

This is a true story about greed and the lust for power, and the drug connections lined up for the original financing behind Robert Evans' disastrous film *The Cotton Club*.

Roy Radin, Beefy Vaudeville Impresario wants to get out of New York and invest his money in films. Instead, he winds up dead in a remote canyon outside Los Angeles.

How he got there is the core of this tragedy about expensive cocaine habits, and a series of inept murders, allegedly arranged by former Miami Coke empress Laney Jacobs.

Welcome to a factual tour of America's greedy, superficially unspanning, drug underbelly, and new questions about the power of its money.

It is so compelling and gripping, you won't put it down. *Myself and Marco Polo*, by Paul Griffiths (Random house, 275 pp., \$17.95)

When "the Satanic Verses" hit the headlines, a joke circulated, the gist of which was that Salman Rushdie's next would lampoon Eastern religion and philosophy next. He hasn't. Paul Grif-

fiths has.

And not only Eastern religion. "Myself and Marco Polo" also holds veiled slams of performance art, serial music, ghostwriters and press agents. It is cultural and social criticism masked as a fanciful novel, a novel written as if Kurt Vonnegut and Douglas Adams were wrestling for the same typewriter.

The initial premise is that Marco Polo's adventures are chronicled by a writer who exaggerates, alters or omits whatever the adventurer tells him. "What are you up to? I was never in Isfahan. I never saw Isfahan. My route took me through Yazd."

But gradually Polo gives in, even in the pages of his own memoir. "What little I know of astronomy I learned from an Arab in.... Isfahan. I think it was, or it may have been Yazd."

The real Marco Polo saw lands so far from his experience it must have taken some time for him to understand them. This wacky novel offers the reader a similar experience.

Paul Griffiths is the music critic of the Times of London. He's written books about music before, but never a novel. Happily, having begun, he intends to continue producing fiction.

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior readers,

Being at a curious age, I'm sure many of you are fond of playing with the electrical machines around the house. The kitchen may seem to be a heaven for some of you with all its applian-

ces. The toaster, the mincer, the beater, the juice maker, the microwave... many gadgets to play with.

An extra special place if you are playing mummies and daddies and you are to cook something for your guests or children or husbands!

Most probably, mummy keeps telling you not to play around in the kitchen, especially with the electronics. Have you wondered why?

Well, using these appliances without close supervision, no matter how confident you are, is very, very dan-

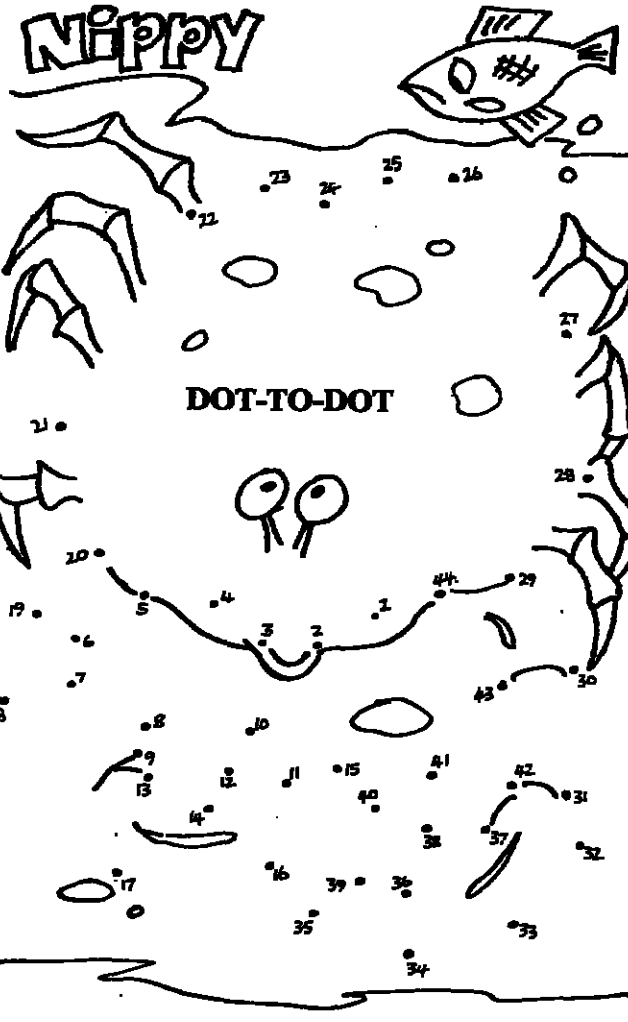
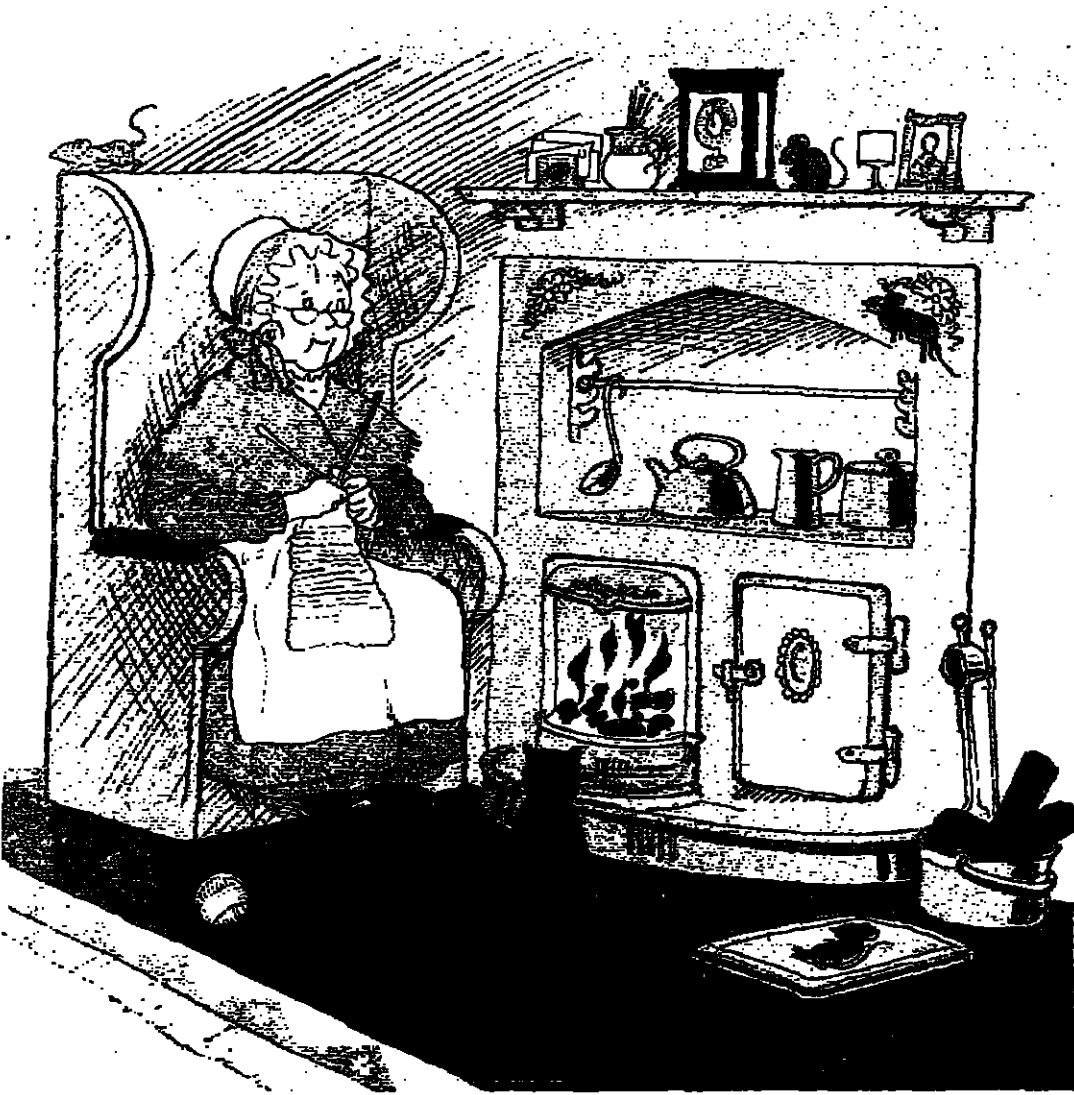
gerous. The least of the nasty accidents that may happen is that your fingers may get caught in one machine or another and get seriously damaged. Be careful.

Manal.

Rhyme time

Dame Trot and her cat
Sat down for a chat;
The Dame sat on this side,
And Puss sat on that.
"Puss," says the Dame,
"Can you catch a rat,
Or a mouse in the dark?"
"Purr," says the cat.

Six mice are hiding in the room. Can you find them?

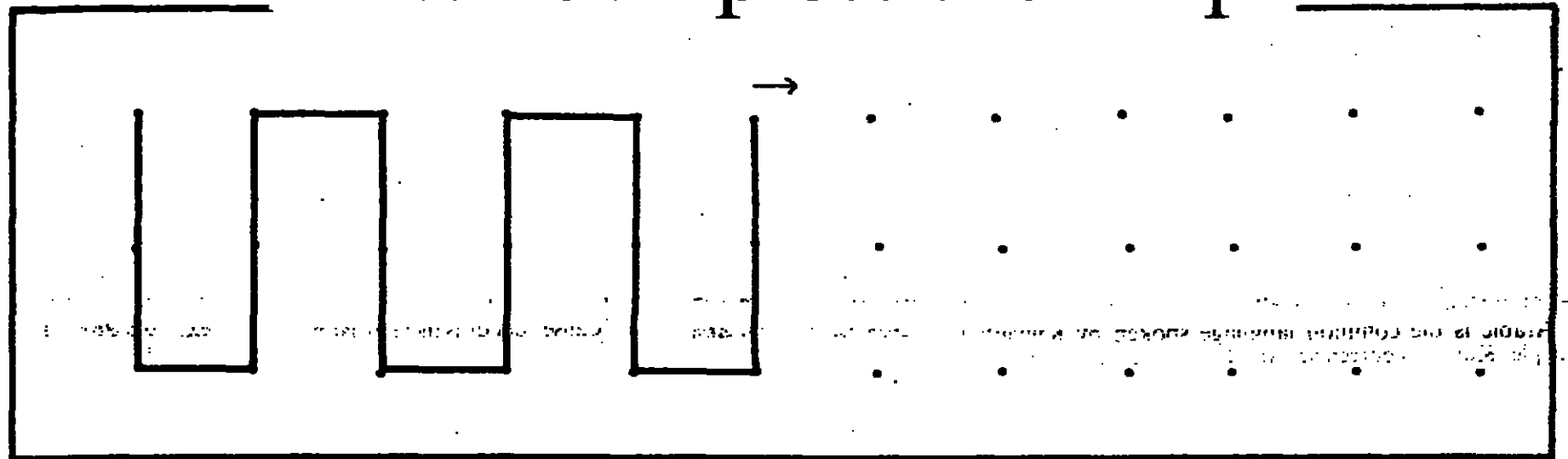


Baby of the week



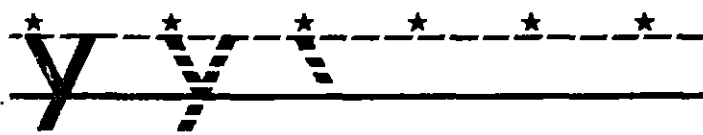
One year old Ahmed Maher Al Zayyat enjoys playing, walking and eating. His favourite toys are his big cuddly panda and noisy police car.

Draw: complete the shape

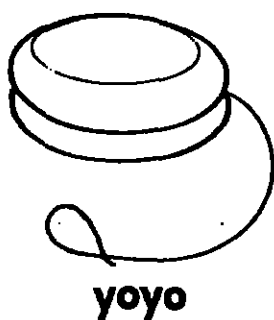


This is a y.

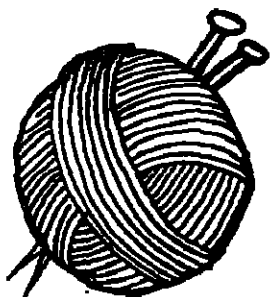
Here are some pictures of words that begin with y. Point to each picture. Say the words. Color the pictures. Trace the letter y with a pencil. Practice making the letter.



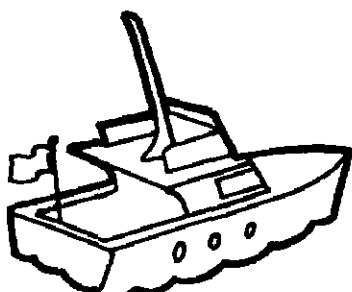
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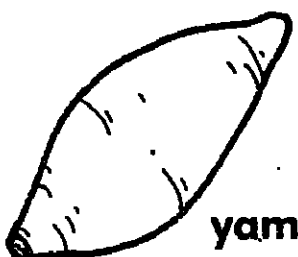
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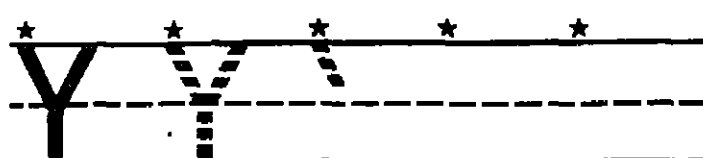
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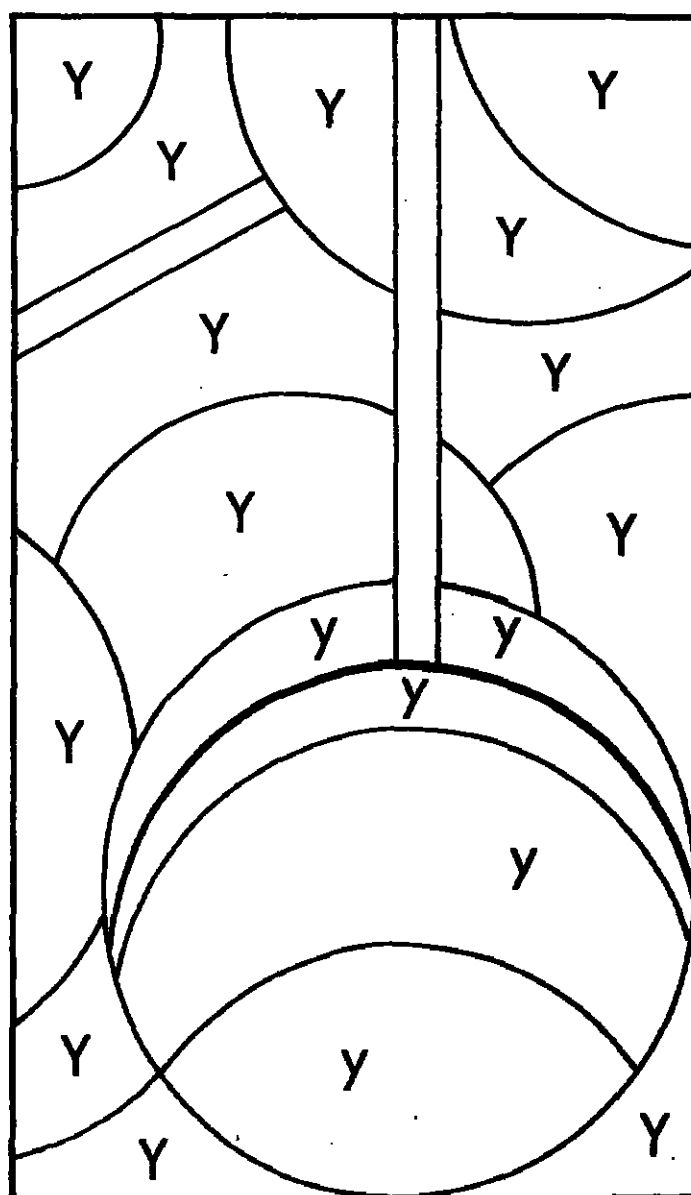
yacht



yam



Color the y spaces one color. Color the spaces with the capital Y's another color. What do you see that begins with y?



Write the missing letter.



Amazing facts

The body of a hanged man found in Denmark in 1950 was so well preserved that a recent crime was suspected, but it was found that the man had been executed 1000 years ago.

Goethe wrote a story in seven languages when he was barely ten.

Mozart, Beethoven and Mendelssohn were all short men.

Court ladies in fourteenth-century France used to wear their corsets as outer garments.

Over half of all the known types of flowers in the world grow in South Africa.

The Japanese railway system is the busiest in the world and professional 'pushers' are employed to push in passengers before the doors can be closed.



The Deer & His Antlers

A deer came to drink at a spring and saw his reflection in the water. He admired his beautiful wide antlers, but he thought his legs looked skinny and weak. Just then some hunters approached, and he dashed away. His swift legs, which he thought were ugly, saved his life—until his beautiful wide antlers got caught in some branches and he was captured.

Moral: People often don't know their own strengths and weaknesses.

By
Name- Samiya Mufti
Age- 14 years old

**Emily Hussain (Dolamoni),
Kuwait English School,
Senior 1.**

**Farinaz Simika,
Carmel School**

Faiza Mufti
15 years old

If you look at a copy of the Encyclopedia Britannica published in recent years you will see that it consists of upwards of twenty volumes. However, there were just three volumes in the first edition published in 1768.

Virali Patel on July 23

○ → □ → □ → □ → □ → □ → □
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sets of
means
X



FOR THE BIRDS

This puzzle is indeed for the birds — or at least for the bird lovers among us. Once again, though, you'll find some here that wouldn't take too kindly to a cage or sparrow feeder!

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SPORTS

Sanchez outlasts Durie

NEWPORT, Rhode Island, July 23, (UPI) — Top-seeded Sanchez Vicario staved off a 5-2 deficit in the final set to beat unseeded Jo Durie 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 7-5 yesterday in the finals of the \$225,000 Virginia Slims of Newport.

It was the first grass-court title for the 18-year-old Spaniard, known as a clay-court specialist, and her first title in the United States.

"Sanchez Vicario, ranked 7th in the world, broke Durie's service twice to even the third set at 5-5. She then held serve with a 94 mph (151-kph) ace and broke Durie again for the win with a backhand drop volley.

"When I was down 5-2, I just played point to point and concentrated really hard on coming back," Sanchez Vicario said. "I never thought I would lose the match."

Sanchez Vicario collected \$45,000 and Durie \$20,000.

Durie, of England, was playing in her first final since 1983. After battling injuries and falling from No. 5 ranking in 1984 to 127th going into the tournament, she said just reaching the Newport final was something of a victory.

"I had her 5-2 up and at least I got myself in that position," she said.

Sanchez Vicario dominated the first-set tiebreaker, but was broken in the seventh game of the second set as Durie grabbed a 4-3 lead and served out the set, punctuating her comeback with an ace.

The 29-year-old Durie then broke Sanchez Vicario in the first game of the final set and went up 3-1 after battling back from four break points.

Serving at 5-2, Durie fell behind love-30 and dropped the game when she couldn't field a forehand shot at her feet.

Serving at 5-4, she made two unforced errors to fall behind 15-30 and watched a backhand shot pass her at the net as Sanchez Vicario pulled to 5-5.

"When it came to crunch time, I got a little nervous," Durie said. "And maybe I didn't believe in myself up to the end."

Durie entered the final having connected on 71 per cent of her first serves during the tournament. But she hit only 57 per cent against Sanchez Vicario, who improved on first serves from 52 per cent to 63 per cent in the final.

Sanchez Vicario, won the French Open in 1989, said she recognised the importance of winning on grass after losing to Betsy Nagelsen in the first round at Wimbledon this year.

"I knew I could do it," she said. "It's a long time until next year at Wimbledon, but for sure when I go I will feel different. Players want to know I can play on grass, not only on clay, so it's important that I won."

Ivanisevic best

STUTTGART, West Germany, July 23, (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic beat Guillermo Perez-Roldan in four sets to capture his first major tournament title at the \$1 million ATP Mercedes Cup yesterday.

The 18-year-old Yugoslav, a rising star on the men's circuit, won a fourth-set tiebreaker to clinch the win over ninth-seeded Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-7, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 and the \$135,000 first prize.

"That was certainly not my best match of the tournament," said Ivanisevic, who had lost only one set on the way to the finals.

Chiappucci finishes second

LeMond retains Tour title



LeMond lifts the trophy after winning the Tour. (Reuter wirephoto)



Chiappucci (right) and LeMond ride hand in hand on the last stage. (Reuter wirephoto)

PARIS, July 23, (Reuter) — Greg LeMond returned in triumph to the Champs Elysees yesterday, saluting proudly to the spectators lining the way as he captured his third Tour de France cycle victory.

The American, who edged French rider Laurent Fignon by just eight seconds last year in the most dramatic finish the race has ever seen, had it easier this time.

He won by a more leisurely margin of two minutes 16 seconds from Claudio Chiappucci, the surprise packet of the Tour.

The Italian had worn the race leader's yellow jersey for nine days before time trial specialist LeMond seized it from him on Saturday in the final race against the clock.

The honour of winning the 21st and last stage of 182.5 kms from Breigny-sur-Orge, raced in the same sweltering heat which has marked the last two weeks of the three-week event, went to Johan Museeuw of Belgium.

"I was still nervous until I crossed the finish line," a smiling LeMond said. "Now I'm very happy. It's wonderful, there's something very special about this race."

"There's almost more emotion about winning this year. Last year I was very excited and surprised. This time I have more emotion and feeling for my team who helped me so much."

Museeuw won a sprint finish of the peloton at the end of the traditional parade through the French capital whose streets were lined with an estimated half a million spectators.

After eight laps up and down the Champs Elysees, the Belgian won his second stage of this year's race in four hours 53 minutes 52 seconds from Adriano Baffi of Italy and Olaf Ludwig of East Germany.

Eric Breukink of the Netherlands, winner of two time trial stages, joined LeMond and Chiappucci on the victory rostrum by finishing in third place overall just 13 seconds behind the Italian.

It was LeMond's third victory in the race and one which guaranteed him a place of honour in Tour de France history.

He joined Frenchman Louison Bobet and Belgian Philippe Thys with three wins. Only Frenchmen Jacques

Anquetil and Bernard Hinault, who each won the race five times, have done better.

The 29-year-old Californian first won the Tour in 1986 but missed the chance to defend it the following year after almost being killed in a hunting accident. He did not return to the race he has made his own until last year.

LeMond holds the unique record of standing on the victory rostrum in each of the five Tours he has ridden.

Only the fourth rider, after Bobet, Merckx and Hinault, to win the Tour as reigning world champion, LeMond finished without a single stage victory, the first winner to do so since Lucien Aimar of France in 1966.

That fact did not disturb him. "Stage wins don't matter, what's important is the overall standings," he said.

If last year's triumph was a salute to his courage in overcoming adversity, this year's victory was a tribute to his athletic qualities and his masterly tactical sense.

LeMond emerged as the giant of the peloton, masterminding the assault on Chiappucci's big early lead after the Italian was in a first stage breakaway which gained 10 minutes 35 seconds on the bunch.

He chipped resolutely at the lead and finally overturned it with some brilliant rides, notably in the 13th stage to St Etienne and the 16th in the Pyrenees.

The plucky Italian, who was not even named among the pre-race favourites, finally succumbed in the time trial at Lac de Vassivière but his persistence gave much to a Tour which saw the main favourites, LeMond apart, disappointed.

The 1988 winner Pedro Delgado of Spain was more than five minutes behind in fourth place.

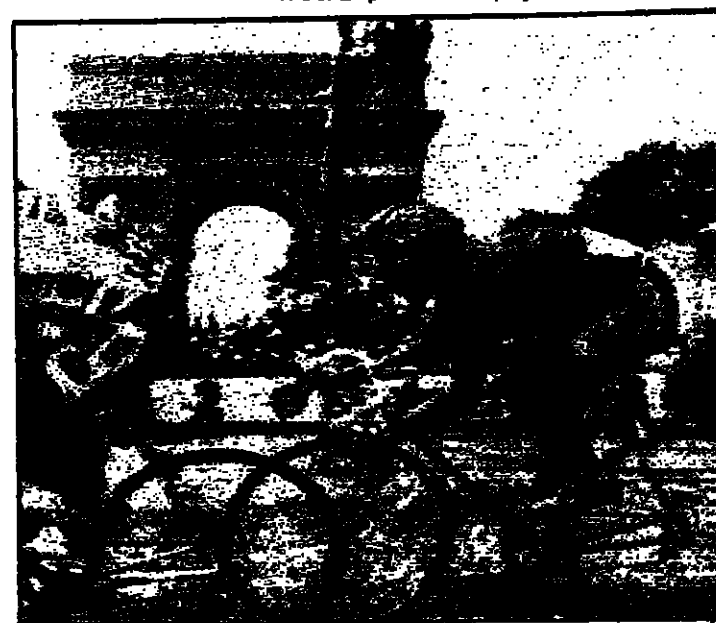
Former world number one Charly Mottet of France and 1987 champion Stephen Roche of Ireland fared much worse, both finishing out of the top 40 and more than an hour behind LeMond.

France suffered its worst record in the 87-year history of the Tour, with top rider Fabrice Philipot placing only 14th. Only once before, in 1925 when Romain Bellenger was 17th, had no Frenchman placed in the top 10.

Only Frenchmen Jacques



The champion is lifted up by his teammates. (Reuter wirephoto)



Greg LeMond passes Paris' Arc de Triomphe as he nears the finish line. (Reuter wirephoto)

Chito and George triumph

UNSEEDDED Chito Lumayag and George Opinaldo upset second seeds Danny Felix and Rene Urot 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the doubles category of the 1990 All-Filipino Tennis Tournament, held at the Holiday Inn.

It was the biggest upset of the tournament and advanced Chito and George to the semifinals. The unseeded duo were always attacking the net and their effective volleys forced many errors on Danny and Rene. Danny had trouble with his weak service return and couldn't get his net play going.

Top seeds Herbert Mendez and Nards Cruz advanced to the semifinals when they beat Rolly Rodriguez and Rolly Quider 6-3, 6-3. The two Rollys fought a gallant fight but the top seeds were simply overpowering and Herbert was deadly at the net.

Third seeds Benjie Aldecoa and Surley also advanced to the semifinals when they beat Juane Parayno and Alfredo Buzon 6-1, 6-4 in an exhausting game due to the intense heat. They will meet Chito Lumayag/George Opinaldo in the semi.

Armando de la Cruz and Willy Maranan survived a strong challenge from Flora Pentecoste and Emil Caisido to win 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. It was a classic doubles match with both sides playing all their power to the game from return of serves to smashes. In the end it was Mando's stylish leaping smashes that won the day for them. They will face Herbert and Nards in the semi final.

In the consolation round, Jake Salvador outplayed Francis Una in a closely contested match that stretched to tiebreak. Jake won 9-8. Butch Samaco sided by his booming serve beat Gene Nuevo 9-6. Rolly Quider overcame Dick Arguilla 9-5. Enrie Lagman played usual serve and volley game was outwitted by Willy Maranan 4-9.

Freddie Paguyo defeated Romy Piola 9-7. Likewise, Lito Ramos survived a strong challenge from Cesar Briones 9-7. Moises Belardo did not have much trouble in defeating rookie Gerry Arrieta 9-3. Roger Alangre defeated Fer Arangel 9-4.

Another match for Freddie Paguyo brought him to the finals when he won 9-5. Jake vs. Roger Alangre continued his winning streak by defeating Moises Belardo 9-6 to earn another finals berth. Roger and Freddie will fight in the finals match.

This time, Butch Samaco's power first serve failed him and Jake Salvador took advantage of it's to win 9-5. Jake will advance to the finals of the August 3 category. Another finalist was Robert Tabuada in class B when he defeated Emil Caisido 9-4. He will meet Nick Ruiz in the finals.

Survived
In the ladies consolation round, Evelyn Cabrera reached the finals when she won over Cathy Palayan 9-3. Janette Hernandez survived 2-7 down against Liberty Corral, pinned Liberty on 7 and won in the ensuing tie-break 9-8. It was an impressive comeback for Janette from 2 to 9 and a letdown for Liberty who was only 2 games away from winning the match.

The finals for classes B, C Ladies, Doubles and consolation round will be on August 2. The Men's class A finals will be on August 3 at 6pm. The awarding and players barbeque will follow at the poolside of the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza. Lots of raffle prizes will be given away. You may have a swim but proper attire is a must.

This tournament is organized by Kay and Associates Tennis Club. The principal sponsors are: National Bank of Kuwait, SAK, Kuwait Tourism and Shipping Corp, Al Rashid Freight and Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in co-operation with City International Exchange/ Far East Bank, Mahulay Restaurant and Saloon and Canada Dry — the official softdrink of the tournament. Donors are Maharika Novelty, Arclins Handicrafts, Air France and Trendwave Shop.

The schedule of games for Thursday, July 26, 5pm: R. Quider vs. W. Maranan; R. Mercado vs. G. Opinaldo; 6pm: R. Doliente vs. J. Diamito; 7pm: F. Pentecoste vs. R. Rodriguez; 7pm: A. de la Cruz vs. R. Urot; L. Cruz vs. H. Babalo; B. Clemenso vs. N. Villar; Friday, July 27, 5pm: F. Pentecoste vs. R. Urot vs. F. Pentecoste vs. Rodriguez; B. Aldecoa vs. Cruzor A. de la Cruz; 6pm: R. Alangre vs. Paguyo; E. Cabrera vs. J. Hernandez; 7pm: L. Cruz/H. Mendez vs. de la Cruz/Maranan; Aldecoa/ Lago vs. Lumayag/Opinaldo.

Athletics blank Blue Jays

OAKLAND, California, July 23, (AP) — Jose Canseco drove in two runs and Mike Moore pitched 8 2-3 shutout innings, as Oakland Athletics beat Toronto Blue Jays 3-0 in an American League game yesterday.

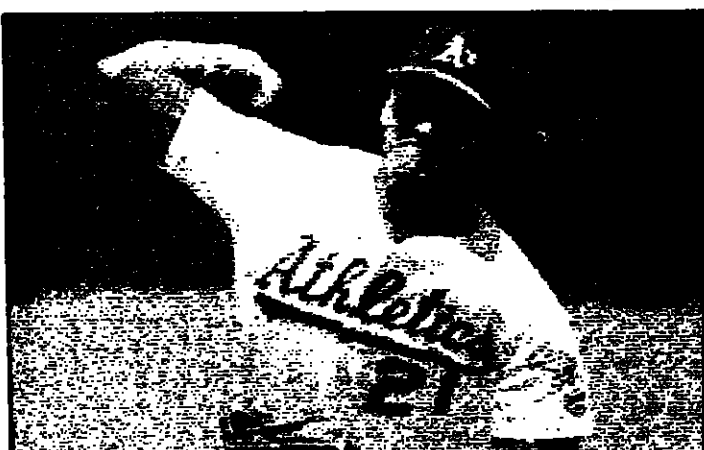
Rickey Henderson returned to action for the first time in eight days and doubled, singled and scored two runs. Dave Henderson hit a solo home run for the Athletics.

Moore (9-8) won for the fourth time in five starts, allowing four hits. Rick Honeycutt got the final out of his fourth save.

Indians 8, Angels 1
Mark Langston lost his seventh consecutive decision and matched the longest losing streak of his career.

Langston (4-12) was knocked out after 2-3 innings, his shortest outing since June 15, 1988. He gave up 10 hits and six runs and hasn't won since in nine starts since beating Kansas City on June 5.

Joel Skinner hit a three-run homer and Candy Maldonado singled home two runs for the Indians, who matched a season high with 17 hits.



Mike Moore in action. (Reuter wirephoto)

Results	American League	National League
Baltimore O	9 Chicago W.S.	3 Philadelphia
Kansas City	2 Boston	6 Cincinnati
Texas	5 Detroit	3 N.Y. Mets
N.Y. Yankees	10 Minnesota	1 Los Angeles
Seattle	4 Milwaukee	6 St. Louis
Cleveland	8 California	3 Houston
		4 Chicago Cubs
		4 San Francisco

Argentines stun England squad

BUENOS AIRES, July 23, (Reuter) — A Buenos Aires regional rugby team on Saturday stunned England to its second defeat in a seven-match tour with a 26-23 victory.

Fielding few seasoned international players, England failed to capitalise their greater weight and height against Buenos Aires who won the match in the last minute with a try by centre Eduardo Labourde next to the goalposts.

The tourists opened powerfully in the first half of the match played before 5,000 spectators on a clear, cold day at the Velez Sarsfield stadium.

The visitors opened the scoring with a try by flanker Dean Ryan following a scrum.

Captain Will Carling added a second try when he weaved his way across the line a perfect ruck.

But after building up a first-half lead of 13-7, England started making simple mistakes and gave the locals a chance to chip away at their advantage.

"We are still giving too many penalties away," England manager Geoff Cooke said.

Rosi keeps IBF title

MARINO, Italy, July 23, (UPI) — Italy's Gianfranco Rosi retained his International Boxing Federation super welterweight title Saturday night with a 12-round unanimous points decision over American Darrin van Horn.

Rosi, who turns 33 in two weeks, outpointed the 21-year-old American — nicknamed

"Schoolboy" for his fresh-faced looks — in a nervous, confused match one year after taking the title from van Horn in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Rosi sustained a cut over his right eyebrow in the first round at Marino, in the wine-growing hills south of Rome.



Al Unser Jr (centre) sprays champagne as Cheever (left) and Michael Andretti join in. (Reuter wirephoto)

Al Unser Jr wins Molson race

TORONTO, July 23, (UPI) — Al Unser Jr overcame a fierce downpour and a persistent attack from the father-son team of Mario and Michael Andretti to win yesterday's rain-shortened \$1 million Indy Molson Grand Prix auto race.

It was Unser Jr's second victory in Toronto in three years and his third cart triumph of the season. Michael Andretti was second and Eddie Cheever third.

Just before the race, rain began sprinkling the 1.78-mile (2.86-km) temporary road course. The sprinkles quickly turned on to an unrelenting downpour. Deteriorating conditions forced officials to

halt the race after 94 of 103 laps, with Unser holding a comfortable 37-second advantage.

Unser carefully worked his Lola-Chev around the treacherous, slippery 11-turn circuit at an average speed of 75.977 mph (122.305 kph) with only Michael Andretti on the same lap at the end.

Unser, who announced before the race he had signed a three-year deal to ride for Galles-Kraco, ending speculation he would jump to Formula One, started eighth on the grid. He manoeuvred his way through the field, taking the lead from Michael Andretti on lap 27.



Agassi carries a racket across his head after losing a point to Grabb. (Reuter wirephoto)

Agassi outplays Grabb for crown

WASHINGTON, July 23, (UPI) — Andre Agassi, his game growing stronger with each match, won his third tournament of the year yesterday by defeating Jim Grabb 6-1, 6-4 in the finals of the \$550,000 Sovran Bank Tennis Classic.

The top seed handled Grabb's 100 mph serve with relative ease and used powerful forehands to finish off his opponent in 62 minutes.

"I was winning handily, but I never felt it was a sure thing," Agassi said.

Said Grabb: "I thought Andre played great. He's hitting the ball with such force these days. I would have to sustain a high level to keep that pace right now."

Agassi earned \$70,000 for the 11th victory of his career. Grabb, the No. 6 seed made \$36,880.

Earlier this year, Agassi won at San Francisco and Key Biscayne, Florida. He beat Grabb 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals at San Francisco.

Agassi's play all week was a step above those of the other 55 players. He didn't lose a set in five matches and was taken to a tie-breaker only twice.

"Every match, it seemed like I rose to the occasion and did what I had to do," Agassi said.

In the finals, he converted 85 per cent of his serves and had 12 forehand winners and 10 backhand winners. Grabb had a first-serve percentage of 62 and had forehand winner and no backhand winners.

Yesterday, the climate was especially muggy, with the temperatures 95 degrees in the shade. The only thing hotter than the weather was Agassi.

The flamboyant 20-year-old was aggressive from the outset, battering Grabb with virtually every shot. It took just over one minute for Agassi to win the first game and 20 for him to take the first set.

The lanky Grabb, 26, was on the defensive the entire match, and was erratic with his shots, missing badly at times.

The beginning of the second set was more promising for Grabb, as he held serve and began to control various points. But Agassi broke Grabb in the third game with a nice backhand passing shot.

Grabb had an opportunity to return the favour in the next game, when he won the first two points, but three consecutive unforced errors and a backhand winner by Agassi spoiled it.

Grabb had a break point — his only one of the match — in Agassi's next service game, but two forehand winners and a backhand winner by Agassi ended that hope as well.

"If I could have gotten back there, it might have been a different ballgame," Grabb said.

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Belgian driver killed in 24-hour race

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium, July 23, (UPI): West Germany BMWs filled both top slots at the 24-hour Spa-Francorchamps touring car endurance race yesterday while last year's victors in the Ford Sierra Cosworth finished third. The 37th edition of event was over-

shadowed by the death of 27-year-old local Belgian driver Guy Renard in a crash just after midnight. Renard was killed when the fuel tank of his Toyota Corolla exploded after his car tumbled into the crash barriers and rebounded onto the track at the Raidillon uphill

straight of the track.

A high speeding Porsche driven by Andre Hardy and a fast following Ford Cosworth steered by British Andy Lyall struck the Toyota which immediately caught fire and then exploded. Hardy and Lyall were unhurt.

Both BMW M3 Schnitzer automobiles strongly defended their long-standing lead, the Cecotto-Giroix-Ostreich combination completing 468 laps of 6.940 km (4.312 miles) on the fast Francorchamps circuit totalling 3,247.920 km in 21:44:08 hours.

Faldo takes British Open title

Stewart falls away over closing holes

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, July 23, (Reuters): Nick Faldo won his second British Open golf title by five shots yesterday after a challenge by American Payne Stewart fell away over the closing holes.

Stewart, beginning the day five adrift of Faldo, moved to within two strokes with six holes to play but was unable to sustain his charge.

The 33-year-old Briton, who won at Muirfield in 1987, returned a final one-under-par 71 to become the first man in eight years to capture two Grand Slam tournaments in the same year.

Faldo won the US Masters in April for the second year in succession. American Tom Watson won the US and British Open titles in 1982.

Faldo, who missed getting into the playoff at last month's US Open by one shot, birdied the opening hole on Sunday, dropped a shot at the fourth, then birdied the fifth.

When he could only par the next seven holes, his five-shot overnight margin had dwindled to two as Stewart closed in with birdies at the fifth, sixth, 10th and 12.

But Stewart bogeyed the 13th and then the final two holes as Faldo birdied the 15th and made a safe bogey at 17.

Faldo's winning total of 270, 18 under par, was six shots better than the previous Open best at St Andrews of 276, set by Spain's Severiano Ballesteros in 1984.

It was two shots outside the Open record of 268 set by Watson when he won his second title at Turnberry in 1977.

Faldo's previous rounds were



Faldo kisses his trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

67, 65 and 67. Stewart also had a final round of 71 and had to share second place with Zimbabwe's Mark McNulty, who compiled a seven-under-par 65, the best round of

the day.

Faldo won £85,000 (\$153,000). Stewart and McNulty each won £60,000 (\$109,000).

Faldo's winning margin of five shots was the largest since Greg Norman won at Turnberry by the same number in 1986.

As he held the silver claret jug which traditionally goes to the winner, Faldo said: "This is the ultimate for me, of course. I feel fortunate to have won at St Andrews."

"When I missed out at the US Open last month, I said to myself 'I am going to win this Open and I channelled everything in this direction."

"I had some crazy moments out there, to lead by five and then for Payne to get within two. I wanted a four-shot lead playing the last and instead I had five," he said.

"When I knocked in a four-foot putt at 15, that was the key," he said.

"But I was under pressure. My heart was racing, especially when Payne got within two."

With his record of two British Open and two US Masters wins along with second and third place finishes in two of the last three US Opens, Faldo has a huge claim to be considered the best player in the world.

But the computer disagrees and Norman still leads him by 0.59 points from results over the past three years.

American Jodie Mudd and Ian Woosnam of Britain shared fourth spot on 276 after closing rounds of 66 and 69 respectively.

Norman, who shared the half-way lead with Faldo before

plummeting from contention with a 76 on Saturday, carded a final round of 69 to share sixth spot with fellow-Australian Ian Baker-Finch, round in 73.

Faldo began where he left off on Saturday, pitching to four feet at the opening hole and making the putt for a birdie, extending his lead to six shots.

Baker-Finch immediately pulled that shot back at the second but could make no further progress and Stewart soon loomed as the main challenger.

Faldo found a greenside bunker with his approach at the fourth and took a bogey, but he birdied the 564-yard fifth after reaching the green in two.

As he parred hole after from there, Stewart moved up with four birdies over eight holes from the fifth.

But he drove into a bunker at the 13th. "That kind of took the wind out of my sails," said the US PGA title holder. "That was the one that made all the difference."

"I had been on a roll. That was the first fairway bunker I had been in all week and it came at a bad time. I was aware I was within a couple of strokes."

"To finish with two bogeys was disappointing. To be second in the Open is irrelevant. It's the winning that it's all about," he said.

Faldo, meanwhile, holed a six-foot putt for birdie at the 15th and punched his fist into the air in his first positive show of emotion all day.

Then he played safely for a bogey five at the tough 17th, approaching short and chipping to 20 feet before two-putting.



Faldo kisses his trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bayern look set to keep German title

BONN, July 23, (UPI): Two weeks before the start of the new season, West German League champion Bayern Munich looks set to capture its 13th national title and launch an attack on the predominant position of Italian clubs in European soccer.

With half a dozen players from Franz Beckenbauer's World Cup winning line-up and five players bought from other clubs, Bayern is expanding its horizons beyond domestic honours.

"The quality of the squad is the best that Bayern ever had. It's the groundwork for the nineties," said Bayern's business manager Uli Hoeness when the club presented its line-up for the coming season.

Bayern wants to compete with the manpower level of the Italian clubs, which have dominated European competition since English clubs were banned five years ago.

"We have a team of substance and class, with good perspectives, which together with the new players can bring us closer to the Italians," coach Jupp Heynckes said.

Manager Hoeness said he had been "unusually active" on the transfer market, investing 13 million marks (\$7.9 million) on new players.

The most expensive of Bayern's new acquisitions is Danish striker Brian Laudrup, bought from Uderdingen for 6 million marks (\$3.4 million).

Stefan Effenberg, a defensive midfielder, joined Bayern from Borussia Moenchengladbach for four million marks (\$2.4 million).

Bayern paid 3.5 million marks (\$2.1 million) for Michael Sternkopf of Karlsruhe, a young midfielder who is widely regarded as one of the biggest talents in German soccer.

Two teenagers, Christian Ziege, 18, and Danish player Alan Nielsen, 19, have been signed to boost Bayern's playing staff.

BRITISH OPEN QUOTES

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, July 23, (Reuters): A selection of the best quotes from the 119th British Open golf championship:

"What the heck. Golf is just a game, an idiotic game most of the time." Defending champion Mark Caldecchia after missing the halfway cut.

"We have had the weather relatively easy. Usually even the seagulls walk around here." Nick Faldo, well-known bird-watcher. "He can overpower a course like this. There are bunkers that come into play for us guys that he doesn't even see." Nick Price on the special talent of Greg Norman.

"It's a golf course that can come back and eat you very quickly." A prophetic Norman before his third round of 76.

"I send his wife Barbara 12 red roses every day to try and keep him at home." Lee Trevino explains how to beat Jack Nicklaus on the Seniors tour.

"The first Open I went to at Troon in 1973, we stayed in a tent and I wore my pyjamas under my clothes because it was so cold." Faldo remembers what the Scottish weather used to be like.

"I'm no threat to anyone. I'm like a duck. I don't even know what lake I wake up at." Trevino on his tournament chances.

"He'll win a major for sure. He's knocked the flagsticks down these last two days." Jack Nicklaus on Spain's Jose-Maria Olazabal.

"Mamma didn't raise no fool." Payne Stewart, who has a clothing contract with the NFL, on why he tries to wear the colours of local teams when he plays.

"The only difference between amateurs and professionals is they call a left-to-right shot a slice and we call it a fade." Peter Jacobsen claiming that top golfers are mortal after all.

"I was thinking about being a humble winner. I would have been if that sucker had gone in." Doug Sanders recalls his thoughts before the fateful putt which lost him the 1970 Open at St Andrews.

"I began to think of all the poor souls whose bones are buried in there." David Jones of Northern Ireland in the infamous Roud bunker.

"I hit a five iron 198 yards. It felt better than sex." Englishman Martin Poxon enjoying the 17th hole rather more.

"I've got an ingrowing toenail that's infected. But it's not that infected." Craig Stadler after taking 48 shots for the first nine holes in the opening round.

Karpov takes tourney lead

BIENNE, Switzerland, July 23, (AP): Anatoly Karpov, ranked No 2 in the world, defeated Joel Lautier, the world's youngest grandmaster, to take the lead after the third round of the International Grandmasters' Chess Tournament.

Karpov, who will meet defending champion Garry Kasparov in the world championship final in October, won Sunday after 51 moves. The 17-year-old Frenchman is ranked 54th.

After three rounds, Karpov is trailed by Sweden's Ulf Andersson, and West Germany's Matthias Wahls, who played to a draw.

Also sharing a point were Lev Polugaevsky of the Soviet Union and Nick de Firmian of the United States, after the shortest game of the evening, 13 moves.

Third round results: Anatoly Karpov, Soviet Union, — Joel Lautier, France, 1-0, 51 moves (king's Indian defense).

Matthias Wahls, West Germany, — Ulf Andersson, Sweden, 0.5-0.5, 35 moves.

Lev Polugaevsky, Soviet Union, — Nick de Firmian, United States, 0.5-0.5, 13 moves.

Anthony Miles, United States, — Vlastimil Hort, West Germany, adjourned after 63 moves.

US champion

KUALA LUMPUR, July 23, (UPI): The United States, led by Katrina McClain with 23 points and Teresa Edwards with 17, defeated Yugoslavia 88-78 yesterday to retain its women's world basketball title. The Americans, who defeated Yugoslavia in the Seoul Olympics final, used superior shooting and rebounding to lead 41-31 at halftime.

Bordeaux held to goalless draw

Marseille edge Nice in opener

PARIS, July 23, (UPI): Defending champion Marseille and its leading striker Jean-Pierre Papin picked up where they left off last season, with the country's top-scorer notching a 72nd-minute winner Saturday in a 1-0 win over Nice in the opening round of the French Soccer League.

The new Marseille lineup did not disappoint the 35,000 fans at the Marseille Velodrome, although it struggled somewhat in the first half. Yugoslav midfielder Dragan Stojkovic, the club's big closed season signing, entered the fray from the substitute bench in the second half.

But it was Philippe Vercautse who found Papin with a pass

midway through the second half for the game-winning goal.

Bordeaux, runner-up to Marseille last season, got off to a disappointing start in a goalless draw against Lyon.

Despite the inclusion of new signings Belgian Patrick Vervoort and Dutchman Wim Kieft, Bordeaux failed to impress.

At Parc des Princes in Paris, the new Paris St Germain lineup coached by Henri Michel scored a come-from behind 2-1 victory over Nancy.

After falling a goal behind in the 53rd minute to the newly-promoted First Division club, Safet Susic hit the equaliser with

a 79th minute penalty, and the winner was scored by another Yugoslav, Zlatko Vujovic, in the final minute.

Monaco, another club with high hopes for the season, opened its season with a 2-1 win over Toulouse, with Roger Mendy and George Weah scoring for the winning side.

Results		
Nantes 0	Caen 2	0
Metz 2	Lille 2	2
Bordeaux 0	Lyon 0	0
Marseille 1	Nice 0	0
Toulouse 0	Azouze 0	0
Caen 2	Montpellier 1	1
Monaco 2	Toulon 0	0
St Etienne 0	Rennes 0	0
Paris S. G. 2	Nancy 1	1
Sochaux 1	Brest 1	1

Standings

	P	W	D	L	G	A	Pts
Caen	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Monaco	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Paris SG	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Marseille	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Lille	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Metz	1	0	1	0	2	1	1
Brest	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sochaux	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Auxerre	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Bordeaux	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Caen	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lyon	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Nantes	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rennes	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
St Etienne	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Toulouse	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Montpellier	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Nancy	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Toulon	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Nice	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Spinks' son shot dead

EAST ST LOUIS, Illinois, July 23, (UPI): The son of former heavyweight boxing champion Leon Spinks was shot to death yesterday as he sat in a car on a bridge spanning the Mississippi river, Illinois state police said.

Leon Calvin, 19, of St Louis was pronounced dead at the scene of the shooting about 5:30 am, authorities said.

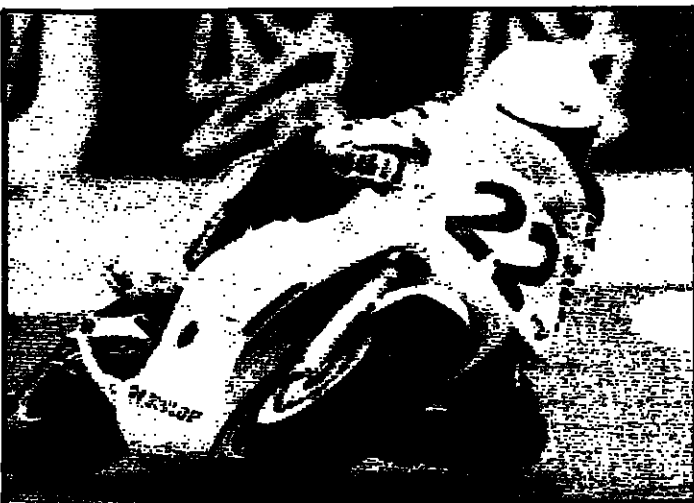
State police said details of the shooting on the east end of the Martin Luther King Bridge, which connects East St Louis to St Louis, were sketchy.

Calvin was shot several times by an unidentified gunman firing from outside the car, investigators said. They said several other people in the car with Calvin escaped injury. Witnesses said another car sped away from the scene after the shooting.

State police said it appeared Calvin had been returning to St Louis from a bar in East St Louis, where he reportedly had been involved in a fight.

Calvin, a former Golden Gloves boxer in St Louis, had been scheduled to fight his third professional bout this evening in St Louis. He had won his first two matches.

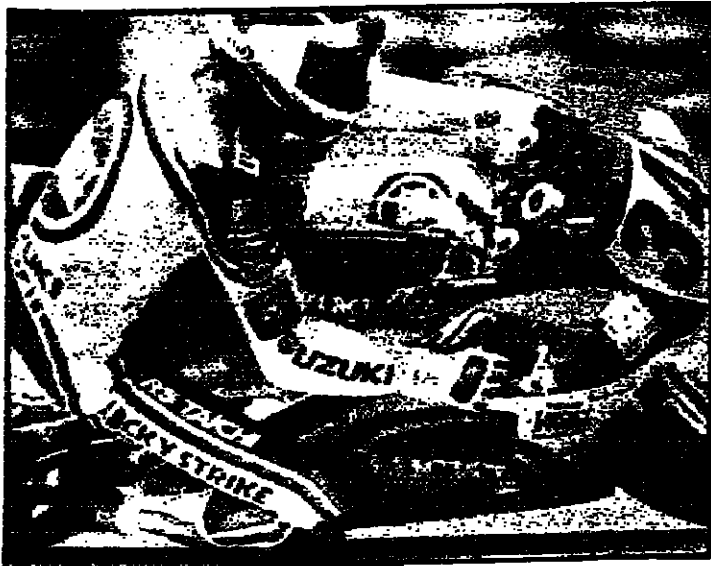
He was estranged from his father while growing up, but Leon Spinks attended his son's last pro victory and had promised to attend this evening's fight, family members said. They said Calvin left behind a 2-year-old son and a 10-month-old daughter.



Miami Grand Prix

Al Salaverrie manoeuvres his 250cc Yamaha past a turn during the inaugural Miami Grand Prix on Sunday. Al Salaverrie led throughout the race for victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

Schwantz recovers from disastrous start to finish first



Schwantz en route to victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

LE MANS, France, July 23, (Reuters): American Kevin Schwantz recovered from a disastrous start to win the French 500 cc motorcycle Grand Prix on his Suzuki yesterday and close the gap on compatriot Wayne Rainey, the world championship leader.

Rainey, riding a Yamaha, managed only third place, his worst performance this year. Honda rider Wayne Gardner of Australia was second.

However, Rainey still enjoys a comfortable 30-point lead over Schwantz in the championship standing.

Schwantz took no advantage of his pole position on the grid, falling back to eighth place after a very slow start. But he was soon back in contention, moving up to fourth after one lap.

Gardner, a former world champion, was the early pacesetter, closely followed by Rainey, who briefly took the lead on the second lap after poor braking by the Australian.

Gardner quickly reclaimed the lead and Schwantz moved up to chase the leading pair.

After six laps the Suzuki rider was close on the heels of Rainey whom he overtook on his first attack. He seized the lead on the eighth lap and never relinquished it.

Schwantz soon built a three-second advantage over Gardner which he was able to maintain until the finish despite tyre problems which affected all the riders in the very hot weather.

The Texan, who has now won four grands prix this season, has 153 points in the championship

against Rainey's 183.

He clocked 48 minutes 05.213 seconds for the 28 laps of the 4.430-km circuit at an average speed of 154.770 kph and set a lap record of 1:41.953 at an average speed of 156.425 kph, more than a second faster than the previous mark he clocked last year.

Gardner fought off a late challenge by Rainey to finish second 2.40 seconds behind Schwantz.

Australian Michael Doohan was fourth on a Honda and is third in the world championship with 109 points.

Four times world champion Eddie Lawson, last year's winner, had to settle for fifth place on a Yamaha.

"I am very happy because everything was fine for me during the race as it was in practice,"

said Schwantz, recording his 12th career win.

"The heat was a problem and it was real sweat under the helmet, but it was the same for everybody."

Despite Rainey's big lead in the championship, Schwantz said he was confident he could close the gap on the Yamaha rider. "Nothing is done yet. There are five races left and I am going to try and win them all," he said.

In the 250cc category, Spain's Carlos Cardus, riding a Honda, repeated his success of last year to get within seven points of championship leader, American John Kocinski.

Kocinski, riding a Yamaha, lost precious points when he fell as he was challenging Cardus for the lead.



Vehkonen triumphs

Pekka Vehkonen, from Finland, in action during the World Motocross Championship in Maracay, Venezuela, on Sunday. Pekka, known as the "Flying Finn" won the event. (Reuters wirephoto)



Soviet gymnast Valentin Mogulini in action on the pommel horse at the Goodwill Games. (Reuter wirephoto)



Jackie Joyner-Kersey in action on Sunday as she captured the first leg of the Goodwill Games' heptathlon title. (Reuter wirephoto)

Evans rebounds from rare loss for 2nd win

Nesty swims to gold at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE, July 23, (UPI): Anthony Nesty, who listened to two years of excuses from rival Matt Biondi, rallied to win their showdown yesterday, and Janet Evans rebounded from a rare loss to claim her second gold of the Goodwill Games.

Nesty's 100-butterfly victory in his brief, but intense, rivalry with Biondi highlighted the early action on a day in which 29 gold medals were scheduled to be awarded in swimming, rowing, gymnastics and track and field.

Two years ago in Seoul, Nesty, a native of Suriname now competing for the University of Florida, became the first black Olympic swimming gold medalist by beating Biondi by one-hundredth of a second. They had not faced each other since then until yesterday's race at the King County Aquatics Centre.

In the interim, Biondi has insisted he would have beaten Nesty in Seoul had he not mistimed his final stroke and coasted to the wall. Biondi went on to win four Olympic golds, and he had won two golds at the Goodwill Games entering yesterday's race.

Nesty, meanwhile, withdrew from the 200-metre butterfly earlier in the Games to point toward yesterday. At the 50-metre mark, Biondi led by almost half a body, but his turn was less than smooth.

Although Biondi still owned the lead coming off the turn, Nesty — a two-time winner at this year's NCAA Championships — had the momentum and, with 25 metres to go, he pulled in front.

Instead of tripping Biondi as he did in Seoul, Nesty recorded a clear victory. He was timed in 53.42 to 53.82 for Biondi.

"I was so nervous I couldn't stand it," Nesty admitted. "Big-time nervous. The time wasn't all that great, but I'll take it."

"I'm pretty disappointed," Biondi said. "I was really shooting for this race and I didn't do very well. I didn't have it. I really didn't feel all that well and I never felt smooth or on top of the water. The last 10 metres weren't as good as they should have been."

Nesty's win slowed down the United States' surge in the Goodwill Games swimming competition. Americans had won 10 of the first 14 swims over the first two days, but they won only three of the seven contested yesterday.

One of those, however, came from Evans — the three-time Olympic champion who added the 400-metre freestyle gold to the 800-metre freestyle title she won Friday. Evans lost the 400-metre individual medley Saturday for the first time in four years.

The American effort in the pool swelled the United States' medal total to 35, with 14 golds. The Soviet Union had nine gold medals and 29 overall. East Germany had seven gold medals and 21 total.

West Germany, Holland, Italy, Poland and Suriname all won gold medals for the first time in the Games yesterday, with West Germany capturing three of the day's seven rowing races.

The two days of rowing ended with the Soviet Union having won five of the 15 events. At the inaugural Goodwill Games in Moscow four years ago, the Soviet Union won eight races at the rowing venue. The only medal won by the United States in rowing yesterday was a silver captured by the men's eights.

In team competition, the Soviet Union wrapped up a spot in the medal round in women's volleyball with a 3-1 victory over Brazil. The United States, however, lost hope for a medal when it fell to Canada and lost for the second time in two games. The Americans, down two sets to one, won the fourth set but lost the fifth, 15-12.

Yugoslavia won the opening team handball game over Iceland 18-7. Czechoslovakia and Japan played a 25-25 draw.

In addition to Evans, the United States gold medals in the swimming pool went to Betsy Mitchell in the 100-metre backstroke and Dave Wharton in the 400-metre individual medley. Wharton, however, shared first place in his race with East Germany's Patrick Kuehl in a rare dead heat.

It was the first tie in a major international swimming meet since Nancy Hogshead and Carrie Steinseifer touched the wall at the same instant on the opening day of the Los Angeles Olympics in the 100-metre freestyle.

Other swimming winners yesterday included Artur Mojdut of Poland in the 200-metre freestyle and Elena Volkova of the Soviet Union in the 200-metre breaststroke — the only swimming event thus far in which the United States had not won a medal.



Patrick Kuehl on his way to victory in the men's 400m individual medley. (Reuter wirephoto)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fifty injured in soccer melee: Police used steel-tipped truncheons to break up a riot among soccer fans which left at least 50 people injured in the southern port city of Chittagong, police said yesterday. The violence erupted Sunday evening after a referee dismissed a penalty appeal by Abahani Club four minutes before the final whistle with a game against the Chittagong Customs tied at 1-1, said a police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Nicklaus plays last British Open: Jack Nicklaus said on Sunday he may have played his last British Open at St Andrews, which has witnessed two of his greatest triumphs. Nicklaus, who shot a one-under-par 71 to finish on 289, one over for the tournament, said he would no longer play in the Open every year. Instead, his participation would depend on his form and mood.

Daniel takes two-shot lead: Beth Daniel clung to a two-stroke lead in the 400,000-dollar Phar-Mor Youngstown Classic LPGA golf tournament as heavy rain on Sunday forced a suspension of play with the last group only on the sixth hole. Daniel, a two-time winner this season, parred her opening hole to remain at minus 10 before the rains came on the scheduled final day of the three-round event.

Palmeiras defeat Portuguesa: Palmeiras scrapped a 1-0 victory over Portuguesa in the Sao Paulo soccer championship on Sunday in a match that had been built up into a personal battle between the coaches of the two sides. Tele Santana, who was Brazil's coach in the 1982 and 1986 World Cup and now coaches Palmeiras, had said he did not want to see Emerson Leao, the current Portuguesa coach, take charge of the Brazil national side. He had accused Leao of making his team play defensive and violent football.

Sumo wrestler Chikamura dies: A 19-year-old junior division Sumo wrestler died of heart failure yesterday, one day after the 15-day Nagoya Grand Sumo tournament, police reported. An Aichi Prefectural police official said the 161-kilogramme (354-pound) Kaisutoshi Chikamura, who ended with a 6-1 record in the second-lowest junior division of Jonidan, awoke suddenly early yesterday with breathing difficulty. He soon collapsed and died before he could be taken to a hospital, said the police official, who requested anonymity.

Trail Blazers waive Ramos: The Portland Trail Blazers of the National Basketball Association have reluctantly placed injured rookie forward Ramon Ramos on waivers. "We pursued all other avenues but there was nothing we could do," said Geoff Petrie, the Blazers' senior vice president of operations.

Soviets beat United States 5-3: Defenceman Ilya Bjakan broke a 3-3 tie as the Soviet Union hockey team scored four unanswered goals in the third period to defeat team USA, 5-3, in an exhibition game Sunday night. Dmitri Khristich and Evgeny Davydov each scored goals inside the first minute of the final period after the United States had taken a 3-1 lead with a pair of goals in the second period.

Ramos to join Figueras: Tab Ramos, a member of the US national soccer team, is close to reaching an agreement with Figueras of the Spanish Second Division, according to a published report. The New York daily news reported in today's editions that the 23-year-old midfielder has verbally agreed to terms with Figueras, which is located about 75 miles (120 kilometres) northeast of Barcelona on the Mediterranean.

All-Blacks unchanged for 2nd Test: The All Blacks team to play Australia in the second Test in Auckland on August 4 is unchanged from the one which won the first match 21-6 on Saturday, the New Zealand Rugby Football Union said yesterday. Saturday's success confounded skeptics who said the world champions had gone off the boil.

PSV Eindhoven sign Romanian star: Romanian soccer star George Popescu is to join Dutch cup-winners PSV Eindhoven from Universitatea Craiova, PSV general manager Kees Hoenigman said. The 22-year-old Romanian World Cup sweeper will sign a four-year contract. Popescu declined to disclose the fee.

Taylor gets ready for England job

LONDON, July 23, (UPI): Graham Taylor, newly-appointed replacement for Bobby Robson as England soccer team manager, today started preparing the way for when he leaves the job.

Taylor, who has just accepted a four-year contract believed to be worth £500,000 (\$900,000), wants to initiate a structure of succession which would allow the Football Association to view all future candidates at an early stage of their career.

Taylor has appointed 52-year-old former Southampton and Sunderland manager Lawrie McMenemy as his only fulltime member of staff.

McMenemy, out of soccer management for three years, has a brief to oversee the England B and under-21 teams and take the heat off Taylor at all levels.

McMenemy, who will also have coaches coming in to prepare the B and England under-21 teams, said: "Graham has somebody who doesn't want his job, but is just delighted to give him any help he needs."

"A manager's job can be very lonely and Graham has the biggest one there is. It follows that it could also be the loneliest."

Taylor said McMenemy's title will be manager's assistant — not assistant manager.

"It is a subtle distinction. I've taken on Lawrie because I wanted somebody with a greater involvement than Dave Sexton who, apart from John Cartwright at the national soccer school, was Bobby Robson's only full-time staff man."

"When Dave resigned after Bobby, it made it more urgent for me to appoint my own full-time man. There are unlikely to be other full-time appointments."

Vengsarkar hits Leicestershire for 80

LEICESTER, England, July 23, (Reuters): India's Dilip Vengsarkar warmed up yesterday for the first cricket Test at Lord's this week with an effortless 80 on the second day of the three-day match against Leicestershire.

Vengsarkar, at 34 the most experienced of the Indian batsmen, has scored a century on each of his previous Tests at cricket's headquarters.

Yesterday he unleashed a series of glorious attacking shots, hitting 13 boundaries in all, as India took their first innings to 361 for

seven declared, a lead of 51. All of the top-order batsmen made runs against an attack missing England all-rounder Chris Lewis for most of the day because of a headache.

Skipper Mohammed Azharuddin scored 46 in a fifth-wicket partnership of 92 with Vengsarkar. Sanjay Manjrekar made 66 and Sachin Tendulkar stroked six fours in a brief but brilliant 30.

Scoreboard
LEICESTERSHIRE first innings
T. Boon b Sharma 1
N. Sners not out 150

J. Whitaker b Hirwani 61
P. Willey c Tendulkar b Hirwani 5
L. Potter b Wassen 22
C. Lewis c Manjrekar b Raju 1
J. Benson c Sharma b Wassen 0
W. Benjamin c Morgie b Wassen 55
P. Nixon not out 3
Extras (b-8 w-1 nb-3) 12
Total (for seven wickets, declared) 310
Fall of wickets: 1-12-132-3-150-4-199
5-216-6-217-7-303
Did not bat: G. Parsons, A. Mullally
Bowling: Vengsarkar 10-1-35-0, Sharma 16-5-41-1, Tendulkar 1-0-9-0, Wassen 17-1-76-3, Raju 30-7-62-1, Hirwani 22-1-79-2.
INDIA first innings (overnight 23 for one)

M. Prabhakar c Potter b Benjamin 2
N. Sidhu c Nixon b Lewis 25
S. Manjrekar c Nixon b Mullally 55
S. Tendulkar c Benson b Parsons 30
D. Vengsarkar c Whitaker b Potter 80
M. Azharuddin c Mullally b Willey 46
N. Mongia not out 63
V. Raju run out 3
S. Sharma not out 23
Extras (b-10 lb-9 nb-4) 23
Total (for seven wickets, declared) 361
Fall of wickets: 1-8-2-76-3-131-4-135-5-227-6-285-7-302
Did not bat: A. Wassen, N. Hirwani
Bowling: Benjamin 20-2-31-1, Lewis 11-3-28-1, Parsons 16-2-73-1, Mullally 18-1-78-1, Willey 17-5-42-1, Potter 12-1-40-1.

Rose hammers Sunday League century off 46 balls

LONDON, July 23, (Reuters): Graham Rose of Somerset cracked the fastest century in English Sunday League cricket when he hit seven sixes and 10 fours to reach three figures from only 46 balls.

Rose, who reached his 50 from only 16 balls in 17 minutes, went on to hammer the Glamorgan attack for 148 as Somerset scored 360 for three, the highest recorded in the 40-over competition.

He also shared in another record as he and opener Jimmy Cook established a new mark for a third-wicket partnership when they added 223 together.

When Rose was finally caught off the spin bowling of Glamorgan's West Indian captain Viv Richards, he had hit eight sixes and seven fours from the 69 deliveries he faced.

Cook was unbeaten with 136 at the completion of the 40 overs.

It was the second day in succession Glamorgan had been put to the sword. In a county match on Saturday, Worcestershire hit the Glamorgan attack for 514 for four, Graeme Hick leading the way with an unbeaten 252.

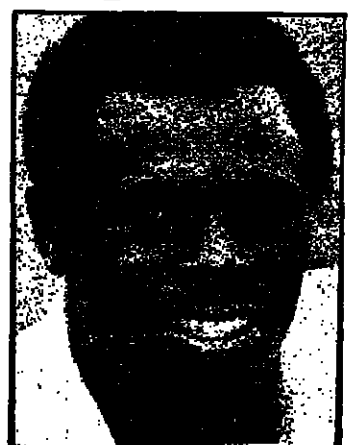
A demoralised Glamorgan never looked like approaching the Somerset total, losing their first three wickets with only 19 on the board.



Graham Rose



Graeme Hick



Cardigan Connor



Waqar Younis

They were finally all out for 140 in just 28.5 overs to lose by 230 runs, their heaviest defeat in the competition.

Destructive bowling by Pakistani Waqar Younis carried Surrey to a five-wicket win over Kent at The Oval with 17 balls to spare.

Younis, kept back until the 18th over, wrecked any Kent hopes of posting a challenging total by taking five for 26 in 7.4 overs.

Kent were all out for 164 and an unbeaten 69 by Graham Thorpe saw Surrey past their total for the

loss of five wickets. Hampshire seamer Cardigan Connor took a career-best four for 11 to send joint leaders Derbyshire crashing to defeat by 189 runs at Portsmouth.

Sent in to bat, Hampshire ran up a formidable 250 for five, mainly due to a second-wicket stand of 147 in 23 overs between Richard Scott and Robin Smith.

Scott struck nine boundaries in a rapid 76 while Smith hit a six and eight fours in making 83. Derbyshire had no answer to the

Hampshire pace attack and collapsed to 61 in 91.1 overs.

Results
At Portsmouth: Hampshire beat Derbyshire by 189 runs. Hampshire 250 for five innings closed (R. Smith 83, R. Scott 76, D. Gower 47 not out). Derbyshire 61 in 19.1 overs (C. Connor four for 11). Hampshire four points.

At Neath: Somerset beat Glamorgan by 220 runs. Somerset 360 for three innings closed (G. Rose 148, J. Cook 136 not out). Glamorgan 140 in 28.5 overs.

Somerset four points.
At Cheltenham: Yorkshire beat Gloucestershire by seven wickets. Gloucestershire 226 for six innings closed (W. Athey 80, A. Wright 57). Yorkshire 227 for three in 35.5 overs (R. Blakey 100 not out, M. Moxon 68). Yorkshire four points.

At The Oval: Surrey beat Kent by five wickets. Kent 164 in 37.4 overs (S. Hinks 41; Waqar Younis five for 26). Surrey 167 for five in 37.1 overs (G. Thorpe 69 not out). Surrey four points.

At Wellingborough: Sussex beat Northants by 21 runs. Sussex 253 for eight innings closed (I. Gould 55). Northants 232 for eight innings closed (D. Capel 115). Sussex four points.

Standings

Sunday League cricket table after the latest round of matches (batting under played, won, lost, tied, no result, points):

Derbyshire	12	9	3	0	36
Gloucestershire	12	9	3	0	32
Leamington	11	7	4	0	28
Kenilworth	12	7	3	0	28
Nottingham	12	6	4	0	28
Warwickshire	12	6	5	0	24
Surrey	11	6	5	0	24
Gloucester	11	5	6	0	22
Essex	11	5	6	0	20
Glamorgan	12	4	7	0	18
Sussex	11	4	6	0	18
Warwickshire	11	4	6	0	18
Worcester	11	4	7	0	16
Leicestershire	11	3	8	0	12
Northants	11	2	9	0	8

SHOWJUMPING

W. Germany ignores appeal over cruelty row

STOCKHOLM, July 23, (Reuters): West Germany and Belgium have ignored an appeal that riders linked to a cruelty investigation should be dropped from the world equestrian games.

The probe involves former top showjumper Paul Schockemöhle, three times European show jumping champion before his retirement in 1987.

The West German is quitting as a trainer and closing his stables after charges that he hit horses' legs with wooden bars to make them jump higher. The practice is known as "rapping."

The International Equestrian Federation (FIE) has since made it clear ahead of the world equestrian games starting here tomorrow that "anyone linked with cruelty to horses is not welcome to FIE competitions."

Tessie Stjosted, spokeswoman for the Swedish Equestrian Federation, said: "The statement clearly calls on West Germany and Belgium to reconsider whether they can send their riders to Stockholm."

The West German team, which leaves on Thursday for next week's showjumping, still contains riders associated with Schockemöhle. The Belgian squad also has a competitor whose name has been linked with the West German.

Prosecutors are investigating charges made against Schockemöhle by an animal rights group following media allegations. The West German, who has defended his methods on television, is expected to begin a fight to clear his name after the games end next month.

Already
Meanwhile, many of the 800 horses and 700 riders have already gathered for the two-week event which will group all six equestrian sports for the first time.

They include the traditional disciplines of showjumping, dressage and three-day eventing, but also feature endurance riding, vaulting and carriage driving.

Favourites for the showjumping are Olympic champion Pierre Durand of France on Jappeloup and Briton John Whitaker on Milton.

Britain's Virginia Leng and Olympic champion Mark Todd of New Zealand are strongly fancied in the three-day event.

Another Olympic champion, Nicole Uphoff of West Germany, is one of the top names for the dressage.

Organisers intend to keep a tight rein on doping offenders and stalls will be electronically watched.

Sweden bans the use of a horse drug known as bute which is used in some other countries. But it had to compromise for the Games and allow the internationally accepted bute level.

But ease joint inflammation but is sometimes overused and can enable horses to jump when they are unfit.

"We will test between 50 and 100 horses, some randomly, and some suspected cases," said veterinarian Peter Kallings.